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75¢

Sex trafficker gets 19 years in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A man who lured women from China to come to Saipan on false promises of jobs and then forced them into prostitution once they got here was sentenced Tuesday to 19 and a half years in prison.

Wei Lin, who was convicted of sex trafficking, was sentenced in federal court to 235 months in prison followed by five years of supervised release.

Lin, 32, a Chinese national, was given credit for time served.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also ordered Lin to pay \$7,172.39

in restitution to each of his three victims—a total of \$21,517.17.

The restitution awarded to each of the three victims pertains to \$1,750 for airfare, \$4,000 cash collected, and \$1,422.39 salary.

Manglona said there was clear and convincing evidence that Lin was the leader of the sex traffick-

See **SEX** on **Page 4**

Delayed flights strand passengers in Guam

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

Cap Air/United Express has delayed flights for the traveling public over the last week, leaving students and adults alike stranded in Guam for several days.

Cape Air's PR office was asked about these reports on Tuesday but it has yet to provide comment as of press time yesterday.

Grace Christian Academy principal Beth Nunez said

See **DELAYED** on **Page 4**

CUC: 95 pct. of power restored

Three days after Tropical Storm Bavi wrought havoc throughout the CNMI, electric power to residents of Saipan is close to being fully restored, with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. reporting that 95 percent of customers now have electricity.

In a statement yesterday, the utilities company said all feeders are up and its crews are continuing to work around the clock to restore full power to villages current-

See **CUC** on **Page 4**

Sablan out as CUC board chair

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

David Sablan Jr. is out as Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chairman.

In a 4-2 vote yesterday afternoon, the CUC board of directors voted Adelina Roberto, previously board secretary, as the new board chair.

Board members Joe Torres, Chris Concepcion, and

See **SABLAN** on **Page 4**



BACK TO SAIPAN

Visiting World War II veterans enjoy *apigigi*, barbecue, and local music at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan yesterday. Seventeen of these veterans served on Saipan and Tinian during the war.

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DENNIS B. CHAN

INSIDE



LOCAL

Dr. Dennis Williams is honored for his pioneering corneal transplant in the CNMI.

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ENVIRONMENT

Researchers at Stanford University find a new way to clean the air.

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LIFE & STYLE

The hills are alive with The Sound of Music's golden anniversary.

» **PAGE 19**



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Local

Surgeon honored for first corneal transplant in CNMI

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives on Wednesday honored eye surgeon Dr. Dennis Williams with a legislative resolution for successfully performing a corneal transplant in the CNMI—the first such feat in the Commonwealth.

Williams, an eye specialist at the Marianas Eye Institute, performed the pioneering corneal transplant in the Commonwealth last December.

In accepting the resolution, Williams thanked lawmakers for the recognition, saying the success of the first corneal transplant on the islands has resulted in several patients now waiting to undergo the same operation.

Previously, corneal transplant operations were referred off-island.

Williams, formerly a Clinical Associate Professor of Eye Surgery at the University of South



JOEL D. PINAROC
Dr. Dennis Williams holds a citation from the House of Representatives recognizing his pioneering efforts in the first-ever corneal transplant in the CNMI.

Florida, moved to the CNMI in March 2014 to join Marianas

Eye Institute.

In a corneal transplant, the

patient's own damaged cornea is removed, and replaced with

a donor cornea. The cornea is the clear transparent surface of

the eye that covers the brown or blue iris.

The cornea can become cloudy because of injury, infection, or changes from aging, and when it does, the patient is unable to see clearly.

Williams has vast experience in performing corneal transplants, and was excited to do the surgery here. "I felt confident that we would have a good outcome from this surgery. The team of medical staff at [the Commonwealth Health Center] were prepared and eager to assist in this historic procedure," he said.

Williams explained that corneal transplants have a lower risk of rejection than other organ transplants such as heart transplants and kidney transplants, and the success rate with corneal transplants is very high.

Man arrested for allegedly lying to USCIS officer

Federal agents arrested on Tuesday in Koblerville a man who was indicted for allegedly providing a false statement to a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer.

Benigno Ilo Mettao was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Tuesday afternoon for his initial appearance and arraignment.

Mettao, through counsel, pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of false statement.

Attorney David Banes appeared for attorney Michael Dotts, the court-appointed counsel for Mettao. Dotts is off-island.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy set the jury trial for May 26, 2015, at 10am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Loring did not ask for Mettao's continued detention as the U.S. government does not believe he is a flight risk, but he requested the court to set conditions for Mettao's pretrial release.

Kennedy ordered Mettao be released upon the posting of a \$10,000 unsecured bond plus some release conditions.

According to the indictment filed in court last March 13, in an interview with a USCIS officer on May 25, 2011, Mettao said he lived with Bao Qin Ding in the village of San Antonio.

Mettao allegedly knew that his representations were false and fraudulent in that he did not live in San Antonio and had never lived with Bao Qin Ding. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Inos appoints Roman Tudela to CPA board

In another executive appointment, Gov. Eloy S. Inos issued a memorandum nominating Roman Tudela to the board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

In the memo, Inos said Tudela is nominated to sit as a member of the CPA board "to represent Saipan."

Tudela's appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate. If confirmed, he will

serve the four-year term recently vacated by Fermin Sakisat.

Inos expressed confidence in Tudela, adding that he will be "an asset on this important board."

Tudela is a former official of the CPA.

The CPA is currently handling important concerns in the CNMI, including the U.S. Military's Divert Initiative.

CPA officials last month met with lawmakers to give a briefing on the U.S. Air Force's divert airfield plans for Saipan and Tinian.

CPA outlined their position—from their September 2014 resolution—to "site divert at CPA's facilities on Tinian," according to executive director Maryann Lizama.

"The concerns of siting divert

on Saipan, particularly within the Dandan plateau of the airport affecting the surrounding communities and residents" was also outlined, as contained in last year's resolution, she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan is the Air Force's preferred alternative for its divert plans in the CNMI, according to a draft environmental impact statement published earlier. The CPA board of directors essentially said "no"

to this alternative in their September resolution.

The resolution echoed concerns the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had over this alternative, where they had declared the Air Force's DEIS to be "insufficient." The agency cited noise impacts on Saipan residents as severe, saying this is inconsistent with directives requiring hearing loss risk to be properly estimated. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

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Two-day hearing on pot legalization starts on Rota

A two-day hearing on the legalization of marijuana for medicinal use started on Rota on Wednesday night, aiming to seek public opinion on the issue.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), who introduced the proposed bill, said he expects Rota residents to ask questions regarding the regulation, cultivation, and retail consumption of qualified patients.

The lawmaker said he hopes to answer questions such as who is going to regulate the cultivators and the distributors, and who is going to receive the treatment.

Female farmers in Pohnpei are sustaining resources

HONOLULU—As the world celebrates Women's History Month in March, we cannot forget the ladies in Pohnpei who are also providing farming contributions in the Federated States of Micronesia. This year, all the women's groups on Pohnpei came out to hear U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen with encouraging and motivating remarks.

A great example of farming contributions from women include how the Pohnpei Field Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Services is a partner with the Island Food Community of Pohnpei supporting sustainable agriculture and healthy local food. NRCS is supporting their current project with the United Nation's Global Environmental Fund-Small Grants Program addressing the conservation of food crop cultivars through traditional agroforestry systems. NRCS assisted with farm field trips and most recently, a workshop on Food Safety and Security. Maintaining soil health and biodiversity are important messages to the Pohnpei Women's Council members who are the target audience for this project. Each of the women received a comprehensive guide to growing vegetables assembled by NRCS and translated to Pohnpein by the local staff.

"In Hawaii alone, the Ag Census reports that 1,574 farms have women as the principal operators," said Bruce Petersen, NRCS Director of the Pacific Islands Area. "We are proud to partner with female farmers and ranchers across the islands to protect our natural resources."

NRCS is the federal agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture who partners with Conservation Districts and others to provide technical and some cost-share assistance to private landowners. Our main goal is to protect, enhance, and preserve our soil, water, air, plants, and animals using sound science and expertise. Participation in our programs is voluntary. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (USDA)

Former teacher and long-time Saipan resident Ambrose Bennett praised the lawmaker, saying "it is obvious that Senator Igisomar was the only one who had the wisdom, courage and fortitude to even present the issue for consideration as no other lawmaker has co-signed

the [proposed] bill."

Bennett, who support the full legalization of marijuana use, said, "The problem is getting our leaders to give the people a chance to answer the question" on whether to legalize the use of marijuana or not.

"So the Legislature is not

ready either to answer the question if we are ready yet. Until they are willing to give the people a chance, we will be just guessing," Bennett said.

"But I do know there are a lot of people from all walks of life including police officers, teachers, lawyers, professional

title-holders, business people, and ordinary citizens who want to see marijuana legalized for all usage," he added.

Bennett also said "marijuana is as common as chewing gum now but the leaders in the CNMI are just slow to lead us in the direction of change."

"As for the unforeseen consequences, many of the so-called consequences have already proved to be figments of people's imagination," he said.

Bennett cited other places that have now legalized the use of marijuana, including Guam. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

Proposed bills on health care, tourism presented in House session

By **JOEL D. PINAROC**
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REPORTER

Six bills were presented at a session of the House of Representatives on yesterday, with two of the proposed measures relating to the CNMI's health care programs, two for tourism, and one proposed bill relating to the government's insurance program.

House Bill 19-35, introduced by Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-

Saipan), proposes to re-appropriate \$157,040 allotted under an existing law, to the Medical Referral Program of the government.

Yumul earlier said the re-appropriation is specifically for terminally ill patients, most of whom cannot afford their medical expenses. His proposed bill seeks to give a daily stipend of \$20 per patient.

Yumul is also the author of H.B. 19-36, which seeks to

appropriate \$4 million in payments to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s utility bill.

According to the lawmaker, the proposed amount will help CHCC, which owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. more than \$14 million.

For tourism, Rep. Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan) introduced H.B. 19-38, which seeks to authorize the Division of Parks and Recreation to charge

a "user fee" for visitors of the "Grotto," a popular tourist destination on Saipan, which features a hidden cavern with a diving and swimming spot.

Benavente said this is not a "tax," so local residents will be exempted to pay the fee. The proposed fee is between \$3 and \$5.

Another tourism-related bill is H.B. 19-39, introduced by Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan). It seeks to provide tour-

ists more entertainment options. The proposed bill seeks to allow hotels to operate non-poker electronic gaming devices.

Aside from giving more choices to tourists, the proposed bill may also increase tax collections and license fees for the government, the lawmaker said.

The sixth bill relates to the government's health insurance programs. Introduced by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), H.B. 19-37 seeks to transfer the administration of the government's group health and life insurance programs to the Department of Finance.

Demapan earlier said the bill will "help control the rising costs of insurance premiums."

To help control premium costs, Demapan's bill would require all government employers—any political subdivision, branch, instrumentality, public corporation, or autonomous board or agency of the government—to participate in the government's group health and life insurance plans.



JUDICIAL TRAINING

Pacific Judicial Council president and U.S. District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, seated third from right, joins a group photo with Philippines Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, seated fourth from right, CNMI Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, and Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, and other PJC judges and justices, presenters and staff, at the Philippines Judicial Academy Training Center in Tagaytay, Philippines. Judges Naraja, Wiseman, and Camacho were invited last week by the PJC to attend a three-day training seminar at the Philippine Judicial Academy Training Center. The PJC is funded by the federal government through the U.S. Department of the Interior and is composed of judges and justices from the Micronesian area courts as well as American Samoa. The training was conducted by professional presenters from the United States on the subject sex offender management.

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WWII veterans visit Saipan

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When Bill Thompson first arrived on Saipan's beaches more than 70 years ago, he was being shot at.

For a more relaxing stay on the island, he joined other World War II veterans on their tour of Saipan yesterday—enjoying local barbecue and music at the Carolinian Utt in the afternoon.

Their tour, dubbed "The Greatest Generation," were made up of 24 veterans, 17 of whom served on Saipan and Tinian during the war.

Thompson first landed on island during the Battle of Saipan "on June 15th, 1944, on Red Beach C," he said in an interview, pointing out into the nearby lagoon across the pavilion.

"I got wounded on the first day, in my face," he said. "In the second day, I got wounded in my leg." And on his eighth day, he was wounded again.

"I got taken out" and was sent back to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, he said.

Thompson, a sergeant of the 4th Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, Company M, called his return to Saipan—for the first time after seven decades—a "wonderful" experience so far.

"It's great, wonderful—but sad in some ways. I saw a lot of people killed out here."

Since the war, Thompson has gone on to father six kids and



Bill Thompson, World War II survivor and veteran, was wounded three times during the Battle of Saipan. He served as a sergeant in the 4th Marine Division.

build high-rise buildings in New York as a civil engineer. He was 18 when he fought on Saipan.

"Saipan's got so beautiful now. It's not torn up with shells. Now it's such a beautiful place."

Another Battle of Saipan veteran, Bud Hampton, remembers being shot at during his time here in 1944.

"I remember I got shot at a bit. I remember...I talked to civilians in caves to get them out" because they had medical problems or needed water, he said.

B-29 bombardier Gene Friley said he was stationed at one end of Saipan during the war, about 4 miles away from Tinian.

"The *Enola Gay* flew right

over my head," he said.

Yesterday was Friley's first time back to the island since then. He said Saipan "feels warm, very pleasant."

"I had a swim in the ocean... I've spent three months in Guam before—but this island has got to be the most beautiful island in the area," he said.

CUC

From Page 1

ly experiencing power outages. These include Kagman III, Capital Hill, Gualo Rai, As Perdido, Chalan Kiya, and Navy Hill.

"While all major population areas are energized, this does not minimize the impact and inconvenience to those customers still waiting for power," CUC said in the statement.

The agency said that Bavi downed 10 power poles as well

as uprooted 40 large trees that fell or were blown into power lines, damaging the power grid throughout the island. It said that over 30 downed power lines were initially identified, with most being restored.

Other repairs CUC conducted in the aftermath of the storm include working on downed transformers, pole tops, hardware, and numerous customer drop lines, mostly due to tree damage.

2 villages with limited water

With regards to water service, CUC said water has been returned to all the villages with the exception of certain parts of Garapan and the entire village of Gualo Rai due to power not being restored to some water wells.

The parts of Garapan that will have limited water service include homes and commercial establishments along Beach Road and Middle Road from San Jose to Garapan.

"Water service in these areas remains limited as some wells

do not have power restored. We encourage extra conservation of water by all customers until the entire water system has been fully restored, particularly those areas listed above."

CUC extended its apology for the inconvenience resulting from these service interruptions and said it is working to restore service as soon as possible.

If you are experiencing service problems following this outage, contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4CUC (664-4282). (*Saipan Tribune*)

SEX

From Page 1

ing organization.

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco said in a statement yesterday that those who traffic women will find no refuge from law enforcement.

"We will aggressively prosecute anyone who tries to profit off the sexual exploitation of women," she said.

Limtiaco said human trafficking is a modern form of slavery and the sentence imposed on Lin reflects the seriousness of this heinous crime.

"It also sends a clear message that trafficking in persons will not be tolerated in the CNMI," she said.

At the sentencing, assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe

recommended 235 to 293 months, or roughly 20-25 years in prison.

The U.S. Probation Office recommended a life sentence.

Defense counsel Bruce Berline recommended a sentence of 60 months in prison with credit for time served with appropriate terms and conditions.

Berline said the sentences recommended by the U.S. Probation Office and the U.S. government were extremely severe punishments, on par with those handed for very serious offenses such as murder, aggravated sexual abuse of a child, aircraft hijacking, and offenses relating to weapons of mass destruction.

A superseding indictment charged Lin and co-defendant Yanchun Li with a count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and to benefit financially from a sex trafficking

venture; three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion; and one count of financially benefitting from a sex trafficking venture.

In June 2012, Lin pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and to benefit financially from a sex trafficking venture.

Li also pleaded guilty and was sentenced in February 2013 to 60 months in prison.

According to the indictment, Rosen Music Studio was a karaoke bar in Chalan Laulau that also provided sexual services for an added fee. Most, if not all, of the commercial sexual acts were performed outside the karaoke bar.

In exchange for a portion of the proceeds, Lin provided Rosen Music Studio with women to perform the sexual services.

Sex acts performed by these

women generally took place in an apartment procured by Lin.

Lin paid co-defendant Li to, among other things, transport the women back and forth from the Rosen Music Studio to the Hong Apartment, and in some cases, to and from hotels.

The three Chinese women victims traveled to the CNMI in 2010 based upon Lin's promises such as jobs at a new hotel that Lin was purportedly opening on Saipan.

The defendants collected from each of the three victims over \$4,000, took their passports, and told them they would likely be killed by criminals if they go outside.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case with the assistance of the Department of Homeland Security/Homeland Security Investigations.

Pacific Development Inc.'s Gordiano Marciano gave many thanks to the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Division of Parks

and Recreation, and Northern Marianas Athletics, for the barbecue, and PDI guides, for their help with the tour.

'Uncle Dave' donates autobiography to JKPL

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

CNMI readers have a new addition to their Pacific collection at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library—a rare firsthand account of the early beginnings of the Commonwealth.

David M. Sablan, affectionately known as "Uncle Dave," donated 10 copies of his recently published book on his life in the early days of the Commonwealth.

Sablan's book, *A Degree of Success Through Curiosity*, documents the historic early days of the CNMI, weaving these details with his story of overcoming the odds as a young boy who grew up during and after World War II.

Sablan was at the library yesterday to present the signed copies of his book. Staff and the directors of the CNMI Library Council were present for the donation.

SABLAN

From Page 1

Eric San Nicolas voted for Roberto, who also voted for herself, as did Sablan. Diego M. Songao voted for Sablan.

Following the vote, Sablan asked if there was a problem with his leadership.

According to sources present during the discussion, the dissenting party cited "no transparency" and "dictatorship" in their answer.

When asked to comment on these barbs, Sablan said, "That's fine."

"That's their opinion. That doesn't faze me one bit. What's important is that we're all one team and achieving the objectives that we need to provide the best service to the CNMI at the least possible cost. That has a lot of dynamics to be considered.

DELAYED

From Page 1

their Scripps Howard Spelling Bee champion, Justine Calayo, just arrived yesterday, after leaving Saipan with her mom for the Guam competition last Friday.

"She got back [yesterday]. So happy for her," she said.

Two staff members and a student from GCA on Tinian are still stuck in Guam as of yesterday, it was also learned, after leaving Saipan on Friday—effectively preventing some classes to be held at the small school.

Visiting World War II veterans arriving on island Tuesday were supposed to arrive as early as late last week, it was also learned. In total, four traveling tours of veterans and their families who were supposed to arrive late last week experienced delayed flights.

"I hope future generations will read [the book]," Sablan said. "The islands need young people to take over and run with it."

Life wasn't easy for him with his education, he said, but he hopes the book gives people hope to take their opportunities and "make the CNMI the choicest place to live."

"I hope the book will assist" in that, he said.

Acting executive director Erlinda Naputi thanked Sablan for taking time off from his busy schedule to donate his books in person.

She said kids and adults as well will benefit from the book and the "knowledge of history and the growth of knowledge" Sablan has.

"It will be a great addition to our Pacific collection," she said.

For those interested, there will also be a book signing today at the Joeten store in Garapan, from 4pm to 5:30pm.

I'm still part of the board and I will continue to provide my knowledge and my expertise on utilities matters."

"I have no problem with [the vote]," he added.

The reorganization of the board was not noted in the original agenda available to media, directors, and management at the beginning of yesterday's board meeting.

At the meeting's beginning, Torres had asked that the reorganization be added into the agenda. A motion was carried to do so.

Sablan is a former chairman of the Guam Power Authority board. The directors have a new chair, after then-acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider swore in Roberto and Sablan last February, effectively reviving the CUC board nine years after the last one was abolished.

According to posts on social media, local MMA fighters and their families visiting or competing in Guam for last Friday's Pacific Xtreme Combat event experienced delayed flights as well.

Vince "The Clinch" Masga, who won his fight in Guam, had his flight cancelled and was still in Guam as of yesterday morning, according to these posts.

And according to Do Re Mi school founder Ao Zhang, four students who were scheduled to leave late last week for the Tumon Bay Music Festival competition had their flights delayed then later outright cancelled.

According to him, their parents, pressured by time constraints, flew these kids to Korea, and then to Guam—for a sleepless 14 hours of standby and travel—and arrived in Guam the morning of the competition.

Fitial, OPA still in talks to resolve ex-governor's case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial and Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback are still in talks to possibly resolve the criminal case against Fitial without going to trial.

At a status conference yesterday afternoon, Stephen Nutting,

counsel for Fitial, informed the Superior Court about the parties' ongoing talks.

Nutting disclosed that he will be leaving for Manila, the Philippines, by next week to meet with Fitial to discuss the matter.

The lawyer said he and Hasselback agreed to ask the court to set another status conference.

Hasselback was not present

in court yesterday.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman agreed and set the status conference for April 8.

Nutting said he will be going to Manila just to talk to Fitial about the status of the case.

"And we might proceed from here," he said, without elaborating.

» Nutting to meet Fitial in Manila next week

Last Feb. 18, Hasselback and Nutting informed Wiseman about the parties' intent to hold talks to resolve the case.

Wiseman agreed to give the parties more time and ordered them to return to court on

March 18 (yesterday) for a status conference.

Wiseman had granted Hasselback's motion to reconsider his dismissal of the criminal charges against Fitial. In granting the motion, the judge basically reinstated four of the 13 criminal charges against the

former governor.

The remaining four charges against Fitial refer to alleged criminal activity associated with the police escort provided former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham in August 2012 that shielded him from being served with penal summons.

United to run 3 charter flights to Iwo Jima

GUAM—United Airlines announced yesterday that it will operate three charter flights between its Guam hub and Iwo Jima, Japan, on Saturday, March 21, 2015, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. More than 30 World War II veterans will be among the group of 400 passengers who will make visits to Mount Suribachi and the landing beaches of Iwo Jima.

Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Business Development Asia/Pacific, said, "This commemoration is very special, as we mark 70 years since the Battle of Iwo Jima with some of the brave servicemen who stormed those

beaches during World War II. We typically operate a single charter flight for this annual commemoration; however, given the interest in and significance of the 70th anniversary, the charter was increased to three flights. United is proud to support our veterans and join them in honoring comrades who lost their lives on these hallowed battlefields."

While in the Pacific, the group will also visit historical points of interest in Guam, Saipan, Tinian and the Republic of Palau. United will host a reception to welcome the charter group when they arrive in Guam, featuring refreshments and local entertainment. United

will also provide operational support throughout the tour, in cooperation with the U.S. Marine Corps, Japan Self-Defense Force, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S. departments of Justice, State, Immigration and Customs, the Quarantine Office, and others. **(United)**

NAP farmers should report storm losses

Agricultural producers negatively impacted by Tropical Storm Bavi may be eligible for disaster assistance through the Farm Service Agency if they are signed up for the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and file a Notice of Loss (CCC-576) within 72 hours for hand-harvested crops under the new provisions of the 2014

Farm Bill.

The Notice of Loss is used to report failed acreage and may be completed by any producer with an interest in the crop. Timely filing of a Notice of Loss within 72 hours for hand-harvested crops and within 15 days for all other crops including grasses is required following the occurrence of a disaster

or when losses become apparent. Producers may file a Notice of Loss with the FSA County Office by email, fax, or phone.

For more information or to file a Notice of Loss, call the FSA Guam County Office at (671) 472-7568. Producers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may dial toll free (670) 234-0896. **(USDA)**

4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged four Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are Wing Beach, Central Repair Shop, American Memorial Park, and the Hafadai Beach Hotel.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive

concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS junior classes to take part in seminar

All junior classes of Marianas High School will be participating in the upcoming Start Smart Seminar sponsored by Northern Marianas College on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, from 8:30am to 2:45pm, at the Saipan World Resort. This event will teach students about the process of applying for college, the benefits of getting a degree, as well scholarship and financial aid opportunities. Transportation and lunch will be provided on this day. **(MHS)**

MHS juniors to take NMC placement tests

All junior students of Marianas High School will be taking the English and Math Placement Test for Northern Marianas College. This is to give students the opportunity to get a firsthand experience of the testing prior to admission for college. Testing will be on March 23, 25, 26, 27, April 1, and April 9. Total testing time will be approximately four hours. Testing will begin at 9am. Testing will be administered at both the MHS and NMC campuses. Transportation

and lunch will be provided for those who will be taking the test at NMC. **(MHS)**

OVR closed March 23, 25 for PD

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be closed on March 23 and 25 for staff professional development activities. For urgent matters on these days, call 287-6538/6548. For more information, contact OVR at 322-6537/8; TTY: 322-6449; Fax: 322-6536; email: nmidir@ovrgov.net; or website: www.ovrgov.net. **(OVR)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Romen Alexander! May you grow and prosper in God's ways. Greetings come from your friends and family.

This is My IT&E!

Make Your Own IT&E TV Commercial Contest.

Lights, Camera, Action

1st Prize
\$500

(1) 1 Yr. FREE 4G Plan
(4) Fiji Concert Tickets
(4) Movie Passes

2nd Prize
\$300

(1) 6 Mos. FREE 4G Plan
(3) Fiji Concert Tickets
(4) Movie Passes

3rd Prize
\$200

(1) 3 Mos. FREE 4G Plan
(2) Fiji Concert Tickets
(4) Movie Passes

ALL TV Commercial entries must be submitted on or before Friday, April 10 - 2015.

ALL entries must be submitted on a memory stick ONLY.

Entries can ONLY be dropped off at the IT&E Sales & Marketing Office - Middle Rd. Gualo Rai - Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

Person who produced the TV Commercial must be present at time of submission and will be required to sign a terms & conditions agreement.

IT&E reserves the right to refuse any submission.

CALL

Saipan **682-4ITE (4483)**
Tinian **433-0210**
Rota **532-3599**

f IT&E CNMI www.ite.net

VISIT

Chalan LauLau
Wireless Express Center - TSL Building

Cause found to charge alleged Pena House burglar

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio found probable cause yesterday to charge Mark Anthony S. Benavente with burglary and theft.

Benavente, 34, was allegedly caught on a surveillance camera burglarizing and stealing money and an iPad from the Pena House

Dress Shop in Chalan Kanoa.

He will be arraigned on March 30.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas called to the witness stand police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan, who testified about their investigation that led to the identifica-

tion and arrest of Benavente last March 12.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for the defendant.

In her report, Pangelinan stated that several persons, including Benavente's family members and a former girlfriend,

identified the person in the still photos taken from the surveillance footage as the suspect.

Benavente remains in jail after failing to post a \$10,000 cash bail.

Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer was dispatched to a burglary and

theft incident at the Pena House Dress Shop last March 9.

Pangelinan said a store clerk told the officer that someone broke into their backdoor by damaging the deadbolt and door knob.

Once inside the store, the burglar forcibly opened the cash

register and stole \$100 and an iPad worth \$600 that belonged to the storeowner's husband.

Pangelinan said a review of the surveillance footage showed the burglar to be a skinny male wearing a pair of long pants, white T-shirt, and a baseball cap. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

2015 TUMON BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Yonsei Academy students win 4 gold, 5 silver medals

Nine students from Saipan Yonsei Academy joined the Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival last Saturday as soloists and small assembles. The competition was held in St. John's Episcopal Church in Guam. About 90 students competed against each other to achieve bronze, silver, and gold medal.

The judges were international conductor Atsushi Yamashita, internationally acclaimed concert pianist Dr. Roman Rudnytsky, and international singer Andrew Fernando.

The competition was divided into three sessions from 10am to 9pm. The Yonsei Academy performers were Kevin Kang (Mount Carmel School, 6th grade), Gyuyeon Kim (Saipan International School, 6th grade), Kate Y. Ishida (Saipan Community School, 7th grade), Eric Kiser (SIS, 8th grade), Edward Y. Minami (MCS, 10th grade), Sharon Paek (Saipan Southern High School, 10th grade), Ju Hwan Bae (SSHS, 10th grade), You Na Lee (Marianas High School, 11th grade), and Donggu Hyon (SIS, 11th grade).

Yonsei Academy produced four gold medalists and five silver medalists. The gold medalists are Kevin Kang (piano), Gyuyeon Kim (piano), Kate Y. Ishida (piano), and Donggu



Nine students from Saipan Yonsei Academy that joined the Tumon Bay Music Festival last Saturday in Guam have their picture taken with Yonsei Academy instructor Youngmi Han.

Hyon (flute). The silver medalists are Eric Kaiser (piano), Juhwan Bae (piano), Sharon Paek (piano), Edward Y. Minami (piano), and You Na Lee (piano).

Among these performers, Kevin Kang, Kate Y. Ishida, Donggu Hyon, and You Na Lee were chosen to perform in the Judges' Choice Showcase concert.

According to Yonsei Academy instructor Youngmi Han, all of these students are diligent and wonderful teenag-

ers. Kate Y. Ishida and Donggu Hyon perform at the Commonwealth Health Center every Sunday as volunteer work.

Donggu said: "It almost seemed impossible at first. When I decided to participate in the Tumon Bay Music Festival, the time was scarce. I barely had a month to prepare for my piece for the competition. 'It's too late,' I thought, until my teacher told me, 'Let's give it a try.' It takes several months to prepare a piece for big competitions like

the Tumon Bay Music Festival. Since I knew that I lack practices compared to other participants, I sincerely devoted myself into practicing. I went to practice at dawn before school began and came back again at nighttime. Sacrifice was necessary, and it was my mom and Mrs. Han who sacrificed the most to help me go through rigorous practice schedule. My mom prayed every night and encouraged me that I can do it. Before the competition, I called mom with ner-

vous feeling. She listened to my call patiently, and before I hung up she told me one thing: 'Enjoy it.' That's exactly what I did on the stage, and I believe that's how I achieved the gold medal. A gold medal is meaningful, but the consequences of achieving it was priceless."

You Na said: "I am very honored to have been able to participate in this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival. Because of the level of difficulty of my piece, I needed to practice it ev-

eryday. There were many sacrifices, sometimes including late night sessions with my teacher, Youngmi Han. At first, I didn't really enjoy playing my piece. Everyday I came home sad and tired because of how much progress that I'm not making. It was my piano teacher that pushed me and encouraged me. I can really say that the hard work did pay off, because I started to express the music in my own way and feel the music. I felt like I was in a whole new world to myself. Even though I received a silver medal for my event, I didn't participate in the competition to win a medal, but to express my joy in playing the piano. I was able to play my heart out to the audience, and I think that's what matters. The effort I put in came out a great success, and I was able to get a silver medal. On top of that, I was also rewarded by the judges for honorable mention, which is the second highest to the Judges' Choice. This year's competition seemed to go by with a blur, and I am happy to say that I am excited to participate in the next one!"

Youngmi Han said: "As their teacher, I devoted all of my personal time to help them prepare for the competition, so I am very happy and proud to inform [everyone about] our student's achievements [at the] the Guam Tumon Bay Music Festival. I feel great pleasure teaching and improving our students' talents and interest in music." **(PR)**

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT for IMMEDIATE HIRING

Zoning Enforcement Staff

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Staff. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Conduct field surveys, collect land use information, prepare and serve notices of violation and other compliance documents, write follow-up notices, maintain enforcement database and files, prepare reports, and perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Background experience in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, building codes, or related field, or a minimum of 2 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health and safety, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is \$25,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Application submittals should be addressed to Mr. Yubert Alepuyo, Zoning Enforcement Officer. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from our office. Send submittals to: E-mail: Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp, FAX: 670-234-9666, US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA, or by Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline for application submittals is **April 3rd, 2015 at 4:30pm.**

Erlinda V. Capilitan
P.O. Box 503599
Saipan, MP 96950
288-3566 / 785-6996

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the) FCD CN CIVIL
Petition for the) ACTION
Change of Name of:) NO. 15-0130

Erlinda V. Capilitan)
Petitioner) **NOTICE OF
HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for a hearing
on April 2, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in
Courtroom 205A before Honorable Judge
Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IT&E launches 'This is My IT&E' commercial video contest

Lights, camera, action! IT&E is launching its very first "Make Your Own IT&E Commercial" contest. From now until April 10, 2015, IT&E will be accepting video submissions from any talented group or individuals in the CNMI featuring how IT&E products and services impact their everyday life.

Hans W. Mickelson, IT&E Sales & Marketing manager, is excited about this project as it will be a reflection of the company's involvement with the

community while at the same time creating an opportunity for the public to make their own IT&E commercial.

"Today's generation is probably the most knowledgeable and proficient with modern technology, especially when it relates to the use of wireless products and data service such as cell phones, tablets, drones, cameras, and other programs and applications, so we anticipate a lot of great videos," said Mickelson.

Public invited to NMC Charter Day tomorrow

To celebrate 34 years of enriching lives through higher education, the Northern Marianas College is inviting the CNMI community to one of its biggest celebrations of the year, Charter Day, on Friday, March 20, 2015.

"We're inviting everyone to join us again in As Terlaje for our annual Charter Day celebration," said Queanna Sablan, program manager, Office of Student Activities and Leadership. "There will be lots of great

food, fun, and live entertainment so I hope everyone can join us in As Terlaje on Friday."

The festivities will kick off at 4pm and will continue until 10pm at the NMC South Field in As Terlaje.

The event will feature various entertainment and competitions, including the Marianas Idol singing contest, Battle of the Bands, and the Miss Charter Day. Numerous vendors will also be selling delicious food

All submissions will be judged on creativity, originality, in relation to IT&E products and services, quality of video, and message of commercial. Winners will be announced and awarded on April 17, 2015. Fabulous prizes include cash, movie passes, and concert tickets to the upcoming FIJI concert.

For more details, log on to www.pticom.com, visit any IT&E store or contact customer care at (670) 682-4ITE (4483). **(IT&E)**

and drinks, as well as hosting game booths.

As part of its commitment to promote healthier health habits, sugary drinks will not be sold at Charter Day. This includes sodas or other drinks with high sugar content. Water and coconut (in nut) will be sold.

For more information, contact Sablan at 237-6790 or via email at queanna.sablan@marianan.edu, or visit www.marianan.edu. **(NMC)**

FOA brings back the music of Roman Rudnytsky

The Friends of the Arts welcomes the renowned classical pianist, Roman Rudnytsky, back to Saipan for another visit. The FOA will be sponsoring three special concerts this weekend with Rudnytsky—a rare opportunity to listen to classical music, played by an internationally renowned pianist.

Rudnytsky will be playing in concert this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (March 20, 22, and 23) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. All programs are open to the public at the cost of \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Half of the proceeds will be

presented to the CNMI's Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands scholarship program.

The March 29 program will include selections from such classical masters as Chopin, Clementi, Grieg, Beethoven, Debussy, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and other musical greats. Each concert will have different selections of music. The award-winning Marianas High School glee club, Rhythm 'N Harmony, will open the Friday and Sunday programs.

Rudnytsky is an internationally active concert pianist of Ukrainian background whose frequent performances take him

all over the world—to every continent and places in between.

In addition to performances in capital cities and important musical centers, he often plays in places away from the musical mainstream, bringing the world and pleasure of classical music to audiences that seldom experience this type of music in live performance. He has received much acclaim in the world's press and many repeat invitations.

A graduate of the famous Juilliard School in New York, he



Rudnytsky

also did additional studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland and at master classes in Austria (the "Mozarteum") and Italy.

Since 1972, Rudnytsky has been a member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. He is a recipient of that institution's Distinguished Professor Award in recognition of his concert activities. He previously served on the piano faculties of the Indiana University

School of Music (Bloomington, Indiana) and the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory, in addition to being Artist-in-Residence at two Australian universities.

During his two week visit to Saipan, he will travel to many of the CNMI schools, playing and discussing music with the students. This is Rudnytsky's sixth trip to the CNMI. He travels at his own expense and donates his time to the community. The Friends of the Arts, with the help of sponsors from the community, have hosted Rudnytsky's stay.

The Friends of the Arts would

like to thank the generous sponsors who made this visit possible: Bridge Capital, IT&E, Paradise Island Animal Hospital, Atkins-Kroll Toyota, Hertz Car Rental, Brabu Pharmacy, Triple J Saipan, PHI Pharmacy, Keynote School of Music, Hardt Eye Clinic, CTSI Logistics, J's Restaurant, Canton Chinese Restaurant, Café at the Park, and HR Support, CNMI. Without their assistance events such as this would not be possible.

The Friends of the Arts invites the community to come and enjoy this special opportunity and an evening of magical music. (FOA)

CNMI govt settles ambulance lawsuit for \$50,000; other claimants seek proceeds

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government filed Tuesday in federal court a court action against attorney Braddock J. Huesman and his client, the owner of a private ambulance, over the government's \$50,000 settlement of their lawsuit.

The CNMI, through assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington, filed a complaint in interpleader against Huesman, August Healthcare LLC, and First Hawaiian Bank.

Interpleader refers to a civil procedure that allows a plaintiff to initiate a lawsuit in order to compel two or more other parties to litigate a dispute.

Brasington asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to re-

quire Huesman, August Healthcare, and First Hawaiian Bank to litigate among themselves their claims to the proceeds of the \$50,000 settlement.

Brasington asked the court to determine and issue an order setting forth the proper recipients of the settlement proceeds.

Last Feb. 5, the CNMI government, on behalf of Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services fire chief Thomas M. Manglona, reached settlement with August Healthcare LLC, that owns Saint Michael's Medical Response.

August Healthcare Group filed the lawsuit in 2012. The company sued cousins Thomas and Joaquin C. Manglona, August Healthcare, and several others for allegedly conspiring to destroy

the company's business and help another then-newly formed ambulance company, Priority Care.

Joaquin Manglona is one of the members of Priority Care.

Brasington said a settlement agreement was executed on March 13, 2015, and the parties asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit.

Brasington disclosed that pursuant to the settlement agreement, the government agreed to pay a total of \$50,000 in full settlement of all claims in the lawsuit.

Brasington said \$10,000 of the settlement proceeds were designated as payable to Huesman as attorney's fees.

He said the settlement deal requires all payments to be paid to Huesman's law office.

First Hawaiian Bank has asserted rights to the settlement

proceeds as a result of a security agreement executed by August Healthcare.

As a result, Brasington said, the CNMI faces claims by two or more adverse claimants who

claim to be entitled to the settlement proceeds.

Brasington said concurrent with the filing of this interpleader, the CNMI has tendered the initial payment of \$8,000 due

on March 16, 2015, pursuant to the settlement agreement.

He said the government will pay all subsequent payments when as they come due to federal court.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Best Sunshine International Ltd. under Imperial Pacific International Holdings, a public company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the owner and operator of an exclusive large-scale integrated gaming resort on the island of Saipan. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

Senior Accountant

Job Description:

- Oversees a team of accountant on day to day journal entry, consolidation of financials, financial reporting, local tax filing, cost accounting, landed cost analysis, communication with the headquarter accounting staff in Hong Kong
- Under the supervision of Saipan CFO and HK headquarter controller to integrate casino financial reporting with the financial reporting obligation of a public company listed in Hong Kong
- Draft accounting policy and internal control policy
- Participate in semi-annual and annual audit process
- Lead the ERP implementation from the Saipan side and coordinate with other functional areas in this effort
- Cross functional responsibility with casino operations, hotel operations, construction, F&B, etc.

Qualification:

- Degree in accounting with at least 10 years of accounting experience
- Familiar with US GAAP and willing to learn about Hong Kong GAAP (very similar to IFRS GAAP)
- Big 4 audit experience preferred
- Public company experience, CPA preferred
- Team player and willing to participate in an exciting multi-cultural growth experience
- Be willing to relocate to Saipan

Accountant

Job Description:

- Handling payroll timekeeping and processing.
- Provide financial information to management by researching and analyzing accounting data; preparing reports, including: Preparing asset, liability, and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing account information.
- Documenting financial transactions by entering account information.
- Recommending financial actions by analyzing accounting options.
- Summarizing current financial status by collecting information; preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports.
- Substantiating financial transactions by auditing documents.
- Maintaining accounting controls by preparing and recommending policies and procedures.
- Guiding accounting clerical staff by coordinating activities and answering questions.
- Reconciling financial discrepancies by collecting and analyzing account information.
- Securing financial information by completing data base backups.
- Maintaining financial security by following internal controls.
- Preparing payments by verifying documentation, and requesting disbursements.
- Answering accounting procedure questions by researching and interpreting accounting policy and regulations.
- Complying with federal, state, and local financial legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation, enforcing adherence to requirements, and advising management on needed actions.
- Preparing special financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Maintaining customer confidence and protects operations by keeping financial information confidential.
- Maintaining professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Other related duties.

Qualification:

- Must have experience with payroll software acquisition, implementation, and management.
- Accounting, Corporate Finance, Reporting Skills, Attention to Detail, Deadline-Oriented, Reporting Research Results, Confidentiality, Time Management, Data Entry Management, General Math Skills.
- A bachelor's degree in accounting preferred; equivalent degree may be considered.
- At least two (2) years of related experience and/or training, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license is preferred.

Application procedure: Please email your detailed comprehensive resume, including salaries, dates of employers, and dates of any college degree. If you are claiming college degree or CPA, you are also required to attach a copy of those credentials to your resume. All documents must be emailed to hr@bestsunshineint.com. For more information, please go to the CNMI Department of Labor website under vacancies.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: March 16, 2015 Close Date: March 23, 2015

Position: **(1) Project Manager**
Salary: \$3,000 per month
Qualification: College Graduate with experience
Link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-1051.00>

Position: **(1) Construction Manager**
Salary: \$3,000 per month
Qualification: College Graduate with experience
Link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/11-9021.00>

Position: **(1) Cost Estimator**
Salary: \$2,000 per month
Qualification: College Graduate with experience
Link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-1051.00>

Position: **(1) Chief Safety Officer**
Salary: \$2,917 per month
Qualification: College Graduate with experience
Link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/29-9011.10>

Position: **(1) Accounting Officer**
Salary: \$2,000 per month
Qualification: College Graduate with experience
Link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/13-2011.01>

Position: **(1) Executive Secretary**
Salary: \$1,800 per month
Qualification: Associate's degree with experience
Link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/43-6011.00>

Position: **(1) Materials Manager**
Salary: \$2,000 per month
Qualification: College Graduate with experience
Link: <http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/11-3061.00>



For interested applicants, please fax your resume to (670) 433-4329.

TRAVELOGUE

88 fun things to see and do in Guam: Part 5

A view of Tumon Bay Beach from the 11th floor of The Westin Resort Guam. Most of Guam's major hotels are located on a strip of white sand bordering the sparkling blue waters of Tumon Bay, the island's favorite coastal playground.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Conclusion

69 Talofof Falls Resort Park. This must-see destination in Guam's southeastern side is packed with unique features and varied activities for all ages—from the famous Talofof Waterfalls to the so-called Yokoi's Cave, a cable car, suspension bridges, an erotic garden, a horror house, an outdoor shooting range, children's rides, a monorail car, a historical museum, and a viewpoint tower, among other things.

Riding the secluded resort park's cable car offers you thrilling aerial views of rich greenery and the cascading 30-foot Talofof Waterfalls in the Ugum River. The two waterfalls are also accessible by foot, with the help of 60- and 40-meter suspension bridges.

For the young ones and the young-at-heart, there is a child's train, bumper cars, spinning cups ride and spinning chairs ride. The resort park also offers a barbecue field, a gift shop and cafeteria, walking trails, wandering pigs, ducks, birds, and lots of nature photo opportunities.

There's also a "Ghost House" that features installations and figures that are supposed to creep you out. Further down is a Guam Historical Museum, a viewpoint tower and an outdoor shooting range.

"Love Land," meanwhile, is an adults-only garden that cleverly features erotic and humorous statues.

The resort park's other major feature is Yokoi Cave, named

after Japanese Sergeant Shoichi Yokoi, who was found in the jungle near the waterfalls by a Chamorro farmer 28 years after the end of World War II.

The original underground structure that was Yokoi's hiding place was destroyed in a typhoon but a replica that's also supported by strong bamboo canes continues to attract visitors to the Talofof Falls Resort Park.

Yoichi hid in the jungle when American forces invaded Guam in 1944. Unaware of the end of the war, Yoichi remained in the jungle for more than a quarter of a century, feeding on tropical fruits and animals until Talofof farmers discovered him in 1972. Yoichi returned home to a hero's welcome two weeks later. He remarried upon his return to Japan and died at the age of 82 in 1997. Yoichi's survival tools are also now displayed in



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The 1,000-ft. long wooden boardwalk that leads to the Fish Eye Marine Park, a circular underwater observatory.

the Guam Museum in Hagatna.

70 Cocos Island. This 100-acre island resort is located 5 miles off Guam's southern coastline and is a short ferry ride from Merizo. The crystal clear waters surrounding Cocos Island allow visitors to enjoy snorkeling, jet skiing, parasailing, windsurfing, and other water sports.

71 Beaches, and more beaches. A visit to Guam won't be complete without sampling its warm tropical waters, white sand beaches with swaying palm trees, pristine marine environment waiting to be explored, and abundant water activities. Its coastlines are dotted with beautiful beaches that make any tropical island

vacation worthwhile, offering a picturesque experience for those lucky enough to reach this corner of the Pacific.

Although many of these beaches were already mentioned previously, it's worth listing once again your beach options from north to south. To the north are the unspoiled beauty of Ritidian Beach and Tanguison Beach.

You may also begin your journeys in the waters of Guam's central beaches—from Ypao Beach or the Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Beach Park to Gun Beach, Matapang Beach, East Agana Bay Beach, and Asan Beach.

Most of Guam's major hotels are located on a strip of white sand bordering the sparkling blue waters of Tumon Bay, the island's favorite coastal playground. Tumon Bay is one of the island's five marine preserves that offer some of the best snorkeling on island. So whether it's swimming or snorkeling by the beaches of Hyatt Beach or Outrigger Guam Beach Resort, you will surely get absorbed in your island vacation.

Down south's beaches are not to be outdone, from Agat Beach or Nimitz Beach to Ipan Beach Park, Talofof Bay Beach, and Tagachang Beach Park.

And Guam's clear waters offer a wide array of activities and experiences—from swimming to snorkeling, diving, windsurfing, banana boat riding, jet skiing, parasailing, sea walking, boat tours, and sunset cruises. Or simply a place to kick back, relax, and soak up the sun. For diving, there's Blue Hole, Hap's Reef, Gab Gab II, and The Crevise.

72 Jeff's Pirates Cove. A visit to Ipan Talofof isn't

complete without a stop at Jeff's Pirates Cove, which is a popular beach bar, a local seafood and barbecue restaurant, an events venue by the beach, a souvenir shop (at one time, they were selling used vinyl records) and a mini-museum rolled into one.

The pirates' cove boasts of unique artifacts, glass fish floats, stone tools, ifit wood sculptures, and rare seashells, among other things. The mini-museum is also home to World War II Japanese straggler Sgt. Yoichi Yokoi's true story wall.

73 A taste of Germany at McKraut's.

Down south is McKraut's Fast Food and Beer Garden, which uniquely brings a taste of Germany to a tropical island. The place has a good selection of German beers on tap and by the bottle, and remains to be one of Guam's best spots to mark Oktoberfest.

Owned by a German named Ludwig Uhmeyer, the place offers generous servings of Bratwurst, burgers, hot dogs, fries, wings, salads, and onion rings, among other things. The business started out as a roadside stand and grew to a full-fledged bar and restaurant in Malojloj. The place could get too busy at times so your food orders may take a while to be served, but in the meantime, enjoy your pint of beer.

74 Fish Eye Marine Park. Enjoy your journey through a 1,000-foot long wooden boardwalk, stopping from time to time to enjoy the fresh ocean breeze, the blue expanse, the horizon, the mountains and the



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tourists prepare to dive at the Piti Bomb Hole, one of Guam's most popular marine preserves.

fish below, to access the first and only underwater observatory in Micronesia. The Fish Eye Marine Park is at the center of Piti Bomb Hole, a popular marine preserve and a premier dive location.

The circular marine observatory is 71 feet high, with the bottom 31 feet below sea level. The upper deck offers a 360-degree view of the surrounding areas. Walk down the spiral staircase to the lower deck and peer into 24 windows for a magnificent view of the undersea inhabited by over 200 fish species and coral gardens. From time to time, you get to see divers also marveling at the wonders of the sea.

Across the street from the marine observatory is the Fish Eye Visitor Center that boasts an open-air theater restaurant, a man-made lagoon, a waterfall, a wedding chapel, a barbecue area, and a local gift shop. Against a backdrop of nature and tropics are lunch buffets and dinner shows.

75 Golfing in paradise. Guam has seven golf courses designed by golf legends like Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Gary Player and come complete with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and lush jungles.

These include those at Leo Palace in central Guam, the 18-hole Talafofo golf course in the south, the Mangilao Country Club golf course, the Country Club of the Pacific, Guam International Country Club, Alte Guam Golf Resort, and Windward Hills Country Club. There are also driving ranges to choose from.

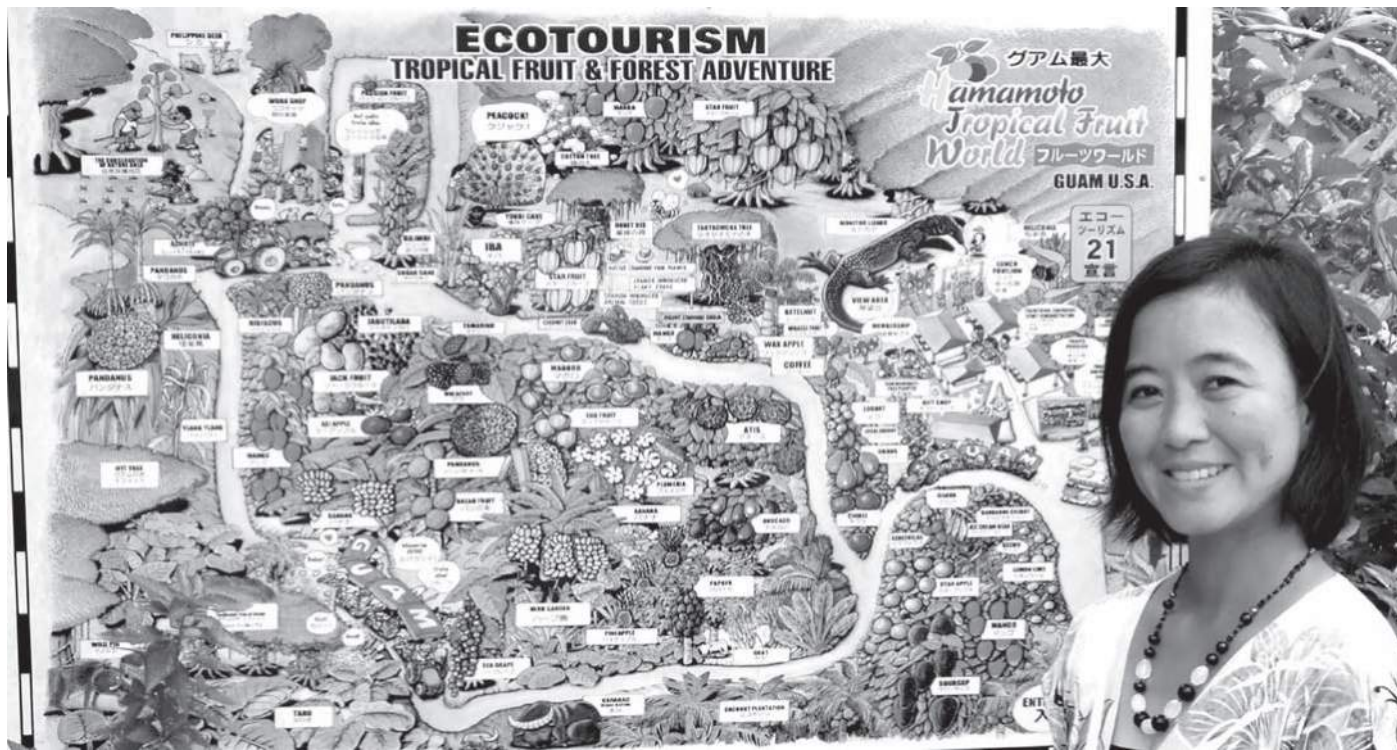
Guam also has two military golf courses—one at Andersen Air Force Base and the Navy Nimitz Golf Course.

76 War in the Pacific National Historical Park. Owing to its rich war history, Guam is home to seven different parks that honor all who participated in the Pacific Theater of World War II including those from the United States, Japan, and the Allied nations. These seven different park areas both on



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Manenggon Memorial Park in Yona, dedicated to the Chamorros who died and survived World War II.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The author in front of a map at the Hamamoto Tropical Fruit World, which allows visitors to see and learn about hundreds of fruit trees either by foot or by open-air carriage.

land and under the sea make up the War in the Pacific National Historical Park, spanning a total of 1,000 acres.

These sites receive thousands of residents and visitors each year. For more information, visit the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center near the U.S. Naval Base Guam entrance on Marine Corps Drive.

The seven sites include the Asan Beach Overlook Unit, the Asan Bay Unit, the Piti Guns Unit, the Mount Chachao/Mount Tenjo Unit, the Agat Beach Unit and Ga'an Point, Mount Alifan, and Fonte Plateau.

77 South Pacific Peace Memorial Park. Completed in May 1970, this 50-foot peace memorial tower shaped like praying hands commemorates the 50,000 Japanese lives lost during World War II. A Japanese non-profit group called the South Pacific Memorial Association funded the peace memorial's construction.

78 Tarzan Falls. Tucked away in Santa Rita is Tarzan Falls, a beautiful and refreshing treat on most summer days but the trails could get too muddy and slippery during wet season. Shoes hanging freely from the power lines greet hikers. There are different trails, especially in the beginning, but they all lead to the same river and waterfalls.

Don't stop at the first river and waterfall you see. Follow the trail to the left leading further down to the major waterfall. It's a good place to cool off and swim, offering a gorgeous backdrop for souvenir photos.

79 Hamamoto Tropical Fruit World. For yet another unique experience, visit the Hamamoto Tropical Fruit World in Yona for a close encounter with hundreds of tropical fruit trees. If you miss the open carriage tour (like we did), you can always explore the fruit garden on foot but always stay

on the paved paths that snake through the highlights of the 50-acre farm.

Just minutes into the hike, the silence was broken by the sounds of two dogs fighting it out with a monitor lizard. That's certainly an unexpected twist to the journey into the world of fruit trees. Learn more about egg fruit, coffee, Kei apple, Barbados or Acerola cherry, avocado, mulberry, sugar apple, sapodilla or chewing gum tree, jack fruit, star apple, star fruit, siniguelas, pineapple, breadfruit, bilimbi, lychee, miracle fruit, mango, mansanita or popcorn cherry, betel nut palm and peanut butter fruit, to name a few.

While you are forbidden from picking fruits from the trees, you can partake of a fruit buffet toward the end of the tour. The eat-all-you-can spread offers fruits harvested that morning and if you're there for a lunch buffet, expect some other island favorites like barbecued chicken, hotdogs, rice, and salad.

80 Shoppers' island. Guam has high-end retailers T Galleria by DFS and Lotte Duty Free and dozens of luxury-name brand boutiques. It is home to Micronesia Mall (and Macy's) and Agana Shopping Center (and SM), along with many other shopping complexes that suit every budget you have. Besides large American-style shopping malls, there are also open-air shops like the Chamorro village and flea markets such as the one in Dededo. Ross at Guam Premier Outlets is always crowded. Forever 21 also just had its opening last week at GPO.

But how do you get around? If open-air transportation is your preference, hop on trolleys that can take you from one shopping destination to another throughout central Guam. Rental cars, rental scooters, and taxis also provide great ways to explore the island. The best tours, however, are those with friends living or working in Guam.

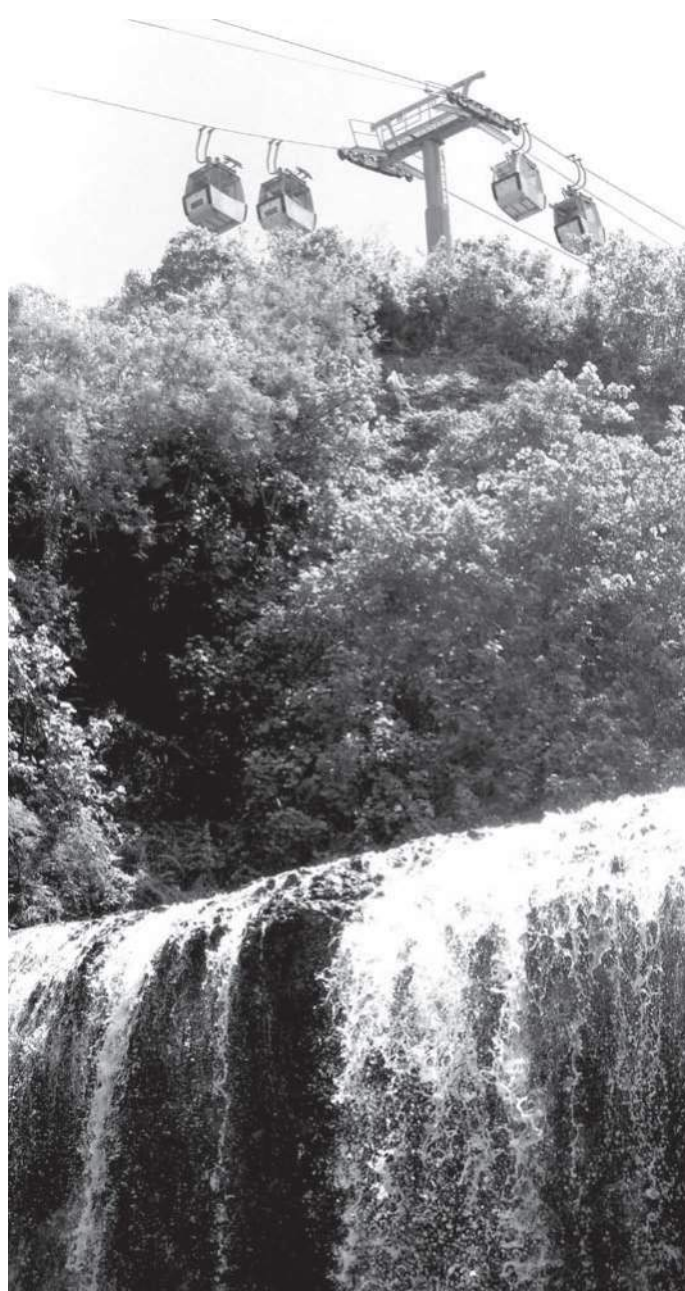
81 Wedding destination. With its tropical island beauty as

backdrop to romance, Guam has become a destination for tying the knot, celebrating wedding anniversaries and honeymoons. In recent years, Tumon Bay's white sand beaches and popular tourist sites such as Two Lovers' Point have been favorite spots for actual wedding ceremonies and pre-wedding photo opportunities.

82 Tagada Amusement Park. When you're walking by or driving by the Tumon area,

you won't miss the swinging Viking ride that's modeled after a Viking ship and is one of the three feature rides at the Tagada Amusement Park. Perched between Ohana Bayview and Pacific Place, the amusement park also offers bumper cars and a dancing platform.

83 Night life. Guam's night life has something for everyone—from Las Vegas-style cocktail shows to magic



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Riding a cable car at the Talafofo Falls Resort Park gives you the best aerial views of the 30-ft. Talafofo Waterfalls. The resort park also features suspension bridges, a so-called Yokoi's Cave, an erotic statue garden, a ghost house, an outdoor shooting range, children's rides, a historical museum and a viewpoint tower, among other things.

shows, beach bars, neighborhood bars, rooftop hotel bars, karaoke bars, dance clubs, pool bars, open air restaurants, cultural dinner shows with fiery fire dances and concerts, to name a few.

84 Mount Lamlam. While Saipan has Mount Tapochau as its highest peak, Guam has Mount Lamlam, which measures 1,334 feet above sea level. Those lucky enough to explore this side of the island can hike the summit from a trailhead across from Cetti Bay Overlook. It could be quite challenging but the rewards of sweeping panoramic views are worth it. During Good Friday on Holy Week, residents and curious tourists flock to Mount Lamlam's summit as part of an annual pilgrimage. The crosses planted at the peak are symbolic of Guam's predominantly Catholic faith.

85 Manenggon Memorial Park. A few weeks before American forces arrived in Guam in July 1944, Japanese troops forced thousands of Chamorros to march to concentration camps like the one in Manenggon. A memorial shrine in Manenggon, Yona was built, dedicated to the Chamorros who died and survived the Japanese occupation of the island during World War II. Every year, memorial services are also held to commemorate the war victims of the Faha and Tinta Cave massacres in Merizo and the Fena Cave massacre in Agat.

86 Staying fit and relaxed. Guam offers hotel spas, massage shops, hair and beauty salons, skin clinics, and all sorts of fitness and beauty facilities to help you glow and maintain that waistline even after spending days at the beach or partaking in island buffets. Over the years, Guam has also seen the opening of yoga studios such as Yoga Chill in Ypao. For Zumba aficionados, there is a free Zumba class daily from 6pm to 7pm at the Micronesia Mall.

87 Memorial wall for Micronesia's fallen soldiers. The A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport is more than just Micronesia's regional airport that serves as the entry point for Asian countries and its neighboring islands of the CNMI (Saipan, Rota, and Tinian), Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae. It is also an art gallery and museum of sort, and prominently displays photos of Micronesia's fallen soldiers, including those from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

88 The people. Guam is known to visitors as the jewel of Micronesia not only because of its natural beauty but also because of the Hafa Adai spirit of its people.

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Real life imitates art in Durst case



Leave it to Hollywood.

The industry so adept at fictional cliffhangers has produced one in real life—with a main character so eccentric and a series of events so bizarre not even Tinseltown's most creative minds could have dreamed it all up.

We're talking about Robert Durst, of course. The wealthy Manhattan real estate scion was arrested on a murder charge—on the eve of the end of a HBO documentary series on his possible connections to several deaths.

True-crime TV reconstructions normally sum up the twists and turns of a case. But the HBO series, "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst," is now one of those twists—it appears to have played a role in the investigation that led to the FBI nabbing him in New Orleans after years of prosecutors being unable to pin anything on him.

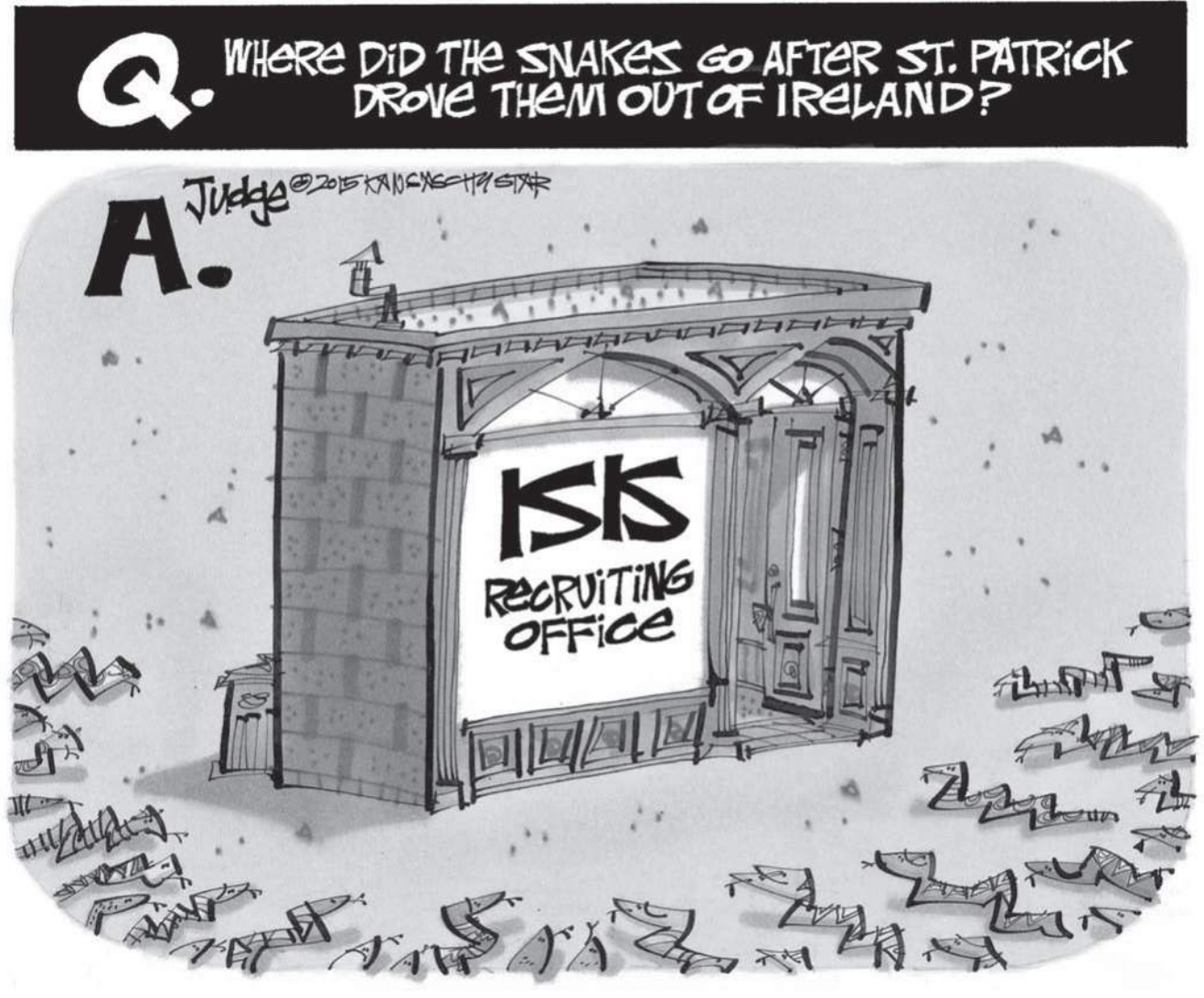
Durst seems bound for Los Angeles, where officials say they have new evidence linking him to the 2000 slaying of Susan Berman, a writer, friend, sometime spokeswoman and a mobster's daughter. Berman was shot just before she was to be questioned by New York investigators in the unsolved 1982 disappearance of Durst's wife in Westchester, N.Y.

A year later, while living as a mute woman in a Texas boardinghouse, Durst was arrested after a neighbor's dismembered body was found in Galveston Bay. Durst fled, but was caught in Pennsylvania shoplifting a chicken sandwich—with \$500 in his pocket and \$37,000 in his rented car. He admitted killing and cutting up the man in Texas, but was acquitted after claiming self-defense.

HBO's comparison of handwriting on two letters seems to link Durst to Berman's killing. But the most chilling piece of evidence in the documentary was the moment in Sunday night's finale when Durst, heard off-camera in a bathroom with his microphone still live, mutters, "There it is, you're caught." And then, "What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course."

Will life continue to imitate art? Will justice prevail in the final frame? Give credit to Hollywood for moving the saga forward, but remember that real life doesn't always stay on script.

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Innovation in an age of global science

Scientific research is dramatically more global in its practice and impact than it was just a decade ago. Whether the United States is able to capitalize effectively on new discoveries stemming from international collaborations will determine future economic growth and job creation in America.

High-energy physics, or particle physics as it is often called, is the epitome of the growing globalization of science and its recent history holds lessons for the innovation possibilities of tomorrow.

Not long ago, the United States was home to three world-class accelerators, mega machines that are the mainstays of particle physics. Now all three—Brookhaven's AGS, Stanford's Linear Collider and Fermilab's Tevatron—are mere memories. What remains is the heritage of the pioneering technologies they developed that are vital to accelerator facilities throughout the world.

Today, many American particle physicists are members of international teams working at such facilities, principally the Large Hadron Collider, a mammoth circular device stretching 17 miles in length and buried as far as 574 feet below ground near Geneva, Switzerland. Dan Brown fictionalized the machine half a dozen years ago in *Angels and Demons*, a best-selling tale he spun around the creation of a single gram of anti-matter.

The LHC, as physicists around the world call it, never did what Brown imagined it could, but it did produce the Higgs boson with the help of 1,500 U.S. scientists. In physics circles, the Higgs discovery represented a dazzling conclusion to decades of work by thousands of scientists from more than 30 countries. But along the way, CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, which hosts the LHC, spawned something even more revolutionary, at least in a public sense.

Spread across the globe, CERN's scientific cast desperately needed a communication tool that could transmit images and massive sets of data. In 1989, Tim Berners-Lee, working in Geneva, delivered the tool: the World Wide Web. And in less than 20 years, the Hypertext Transfer Protocol, http, transformed commerce, entertainment, finance and the way we connect with each other.

Clever people in any nation could have seized on Berners-Lee's creation and made their fortunes. But the dot-com revolution happened here. And it was no accident.

We had a well-honed entrepreneurial engine: brainy students at top-flight universities, science agencies with a history of supporting the best peer-reviewed research, a legacy of federally funded science discoveries ripe for exploitation, risk taking venture capitalists with deep pockets and well-established laws that protected intellectual property. What ensued is nothing short of one of the most spectacular episodes in the American dream.

By **MICHAEL S. LUBELL**
CQ-Roll Call

Michael S. Lubell is the Mark W. Zemansky Professor of Physics at the City College of the City University of New York and director of public affairs of the American Physical Society. He writes and speaks widely about scientific research and science policy. He wrote this for CQ-Roll Call.



The High-Performance Computing and Communications Initiative—credit Al Gore—enabled Marc Andreessen and Eric Bina, then students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to develop Mosaic. That graphical browser, introduced in 1993, morphed into Netscape Navigator and eventually into today's three most popular tools, Internet Explorer, Mozilla and Safari.

In 1994, two Stanford electrical engineering graduate students, Jerry Yang and David Filo, developed the portal "Jerry and David's Guide to the World Wide Web." Today, we know it as Yahoo.

A few years later, Larry Page, who was pursuing his Ph.D. at Stanford, teamed up with fellow student Sergey Brin, who was drawing support from the National Science Foundation, and began work on a Web crawler. Their venture is better known as Google.

In 1998, Peter Thiel and Max Levchin launched PayPal, the electronic money transmission service. Reid Hoffman, who was one of its board members, co-founded LinkedIn in 2002. That same year, Mark Zuckerberg and four of his Harvard classmates launched Facebook. Social media was here to stay.

All that was missing was hardware to make the connectivity portable. In 2007, Steve Jobs turned hope into reality when he unveiled the iPhone. Jobs was a visionary and an extraordinary salesman. But neither he nor his company, Apple, was a technology originator. The iPhone and the iPad, which followed in 2010, were enabled by decades of research funded by the U.S. government.

The World Wide Web was the product of international science. Any nation could have capitalized on it, but the United States had the capability to run with it best and fastest. Today, science is even more global. Whether we will be able to replicate our past success when the next big thing happens somewhere else in the world depends on the preparations we make now: ramping up support of public universities, reinvigorating federal research budgets and getting venture capitalists to return to the days when risk was not a dirty word.

Huegon Finu` Chamorro

Guaha `nai masaŋgane-yu` na taduŋg na finu` Chamorro huna sesetbe. I palabra otdinariu lau kasse pot ti sessu tana` setbe na mapo`lu kumu taduŋg. Gaige ha` gi supin tasi, trabiha ti lumili`uf-yu`. Lau maila` ta chage mas finu` nana-ta.

`Nai pa`gu man-mattu ham gualu` Tagpochau in` tutuhon “uma-bahu” i lugat. Man-lodu` troŋku pot ti man-mapacha deste finagpu` gera.

■■■

Gi Disiembre na mes, in` li`e` tinanom mame dagu “mamunu”. In` seta ta`lu un` aŋu dispues `nai in` kisecha. Kontodu hagas troŋkun niyog lokue` man-mamunu`.

■■■

`Nai dinanche fotten pagyu iya Luta, man-mangagao i maŋeluta “abiu” ayudu pot mampos didog destrosiun i pagyu.

■■■

Mes Abrit tiempon man-apasen “aduana” yangin enfin guaha kue-tamu. `An taya` pues kasse guaha para un` mana`e tatte (tax return).

■■■

Malalagu un` patgon gi halom uchan. Ha “adaŋggua” i fache pot no u masmai degaŋa.

■■■

Maŋge` atulin harina lau pot dididi` “aguanon”. Mana late`uk dispues.

■■■

Mamahan-yu` sinturon-hu ni “aguyon” biyasŋa. Gi riitiradan cho`chu`, hali`e asagua-hu na “ambre-yu”`. Ensegi-das mama` sena.

Tantu ma-espanta i patgon, todou mana` “aminasayon” na esta tiha tuŋgu` haf` para u chogue.

Un` amko` kulan tatan i seŋgsoŋg pot “amtao” gi finapos tautau.

Ha pega i nana i neni gi “anadot” para u tutuhon umeyag mamokat.

Lastima manadan salape` ŋa i prohimu as Howard Hughes. Matai yan kochinuŋa dispues pininu` chetnot “enkotdio”.

`An sinasapet hau pot heŋiun “malagtos”, pegaye “lemonaya” i

gima ya un` hala lokue` para i santatte. `An ti kontentu hau, pues para macho`chu` ya un` pulan i pastahe.

Machochochu` kumu hatdineru gi fina` gualu`. `An ogga`an, ha rega i tinanom dispues man-“despoŋga” “kapuyot” siha gi tinanom tumates. Ha kone` dos poya ya ha “digueya”. Ha rikohen ŋaihon i haga` sa` malagu` i amuŋa flitadan manog para senaŋa. Paire na boka piot ya mana`ye mediu puŋu` na to`an doni` sali.

`Nai mamapot man-huyuŋg i chiba gi kelat sanlichen, hu hileŋg-ga-yu para u lalibianu. Puti lau ayu solu `nai siŋa malagnos i chiba ginen traŋkan i kelat.

Umega` un` sumen chatpagu na amigo mubin (kachido`) Elvis Presley. Ilegŋa gi finagpu` na `an taiguihe bunituŋa as Elvis para unna` bula famaguoŋa. Duru i chaleg tuyan `nai masaŋgane na u ketu. “Tatnai sisida para u fan malalagu dose na man-chatpagun famaguon gi bisinu”. Ai na grasia i che`chu` botlu.

Bes enkuando bai bibira-yu` tatte yan mas palabra ni hasan tana setbe na tiempu. Praktika usun hila` nana-ta ya in` fanague famagu-on miyu ni liŋguahen niha. Liŋguahi-ta solu sahyan espiritun natibu maseha ŋgai`an na tiempu. Estague` u fan inesgaihon mona kumu famaguon O`Perlas iya Pasifiku.

Chetnot Ŋalaŋg

Piniloghu na ositan lau `nai huli`e un` lahen mame chomochu` si-ŋku na platun neŋkanu` ni daŋkulu dispues dopblague` ni katdun to`laŋg, sumeha-yu`.

Dispues `nai hu komprende na maseha kuantu ha kanu` ŋaŋalaŋg ha` i prohimu ayu mina` ti siŋa pumara bumoka mientras guaguaha` neŋkanu` gi menaŋa.

Tihu tuŋgu kau in` hassu un` prohimu giya Guam ni matai guine gi alacha. Diberas ha chage I prohimu rumibaha libraŋa (800) lau dimalas dispues.

`An mampos lodu` i tautau ginen este na chetnot magahet na namase` sa` ni para u famokat chatsaga. Kontodu timoŋa inami-nasa `nai ni para u tohge mapot. Ni taimanu na animu para u utot kinano` ŋa ti u felis. Guseŋa ha sumukegue` mas.

Statement on full legalization of marijuana

By **AMBROSE M. BENNETT**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor’s Note: The following is the text of the author’s testimony during the two-day public hearings on Rota on Senate Bill 19-06, a bill that proposes to legalize the medical use of marijuana in the CNMI. Due to its length, it will be published as a series.

First part of a series

I am here by the special request of the people of Rota who realize that legalization can make the quality of life on Rota and in the CNMI a lot better. Given the culture of our society many people don’t like to talk publicly on this issue so they have asked me to speak on their behalf. I also want to thank Mayor Atalig for realizing the significant value of legalization for Rota and for caring about the people to get me here to educate the people of Rota and to speak on this issue. There are several empirical reasons as to why the CNMI should legalize marijuana for all uses, which I will explain over the next two days given the limited amount of time afforded me for each hearing.

Given the sweeping reforms to legalize marijuana in 24 states with five states and the District of Columbia now allowing the full legal use of marijuana for all purposes, there is no question as to whether the CNMI should legalize it but a question of how it should be legalized. There is also the overshadowing fact that the U.S. Senate is now poised to pass a bill that will legalize the medical use of marijuana for the entire country. Needless to say, the CNMI’s discussion and consideration for medical use is a bit late and not even necessary as the President and many members of Congress are poised to pass the Senate’s bill that will allow medical use in all states and territories.

So if not medical use, then what, as medical use is designed to only address the concerns of a minority special interest when recreational and medicinal use is applicable to every adult in society. In fact, we should have the freedom to choose between alcohol or marijuana and the right to use every herb bearing plant given to us by our creator as it was duly written and noted in the Bible you were holding when you took an oath to all the people of the CNMI. So please don’t let this issue become a political football to be tossed around until it is too late for the CNMI to gain an economic advantage in the marijuana industry. Please consider changing the present bill and giving the issue of full legalization to the scientists as this is purely a social and economic issue, not political.

The Germans applied science and education to the N. Islands and the islands flourished with the copra industry. The Japanese applied science and technology and the islands flourished even more with the sugar cane industry. But we have stopped applying science and have reduced ourselves to making decisions like the casino based on speculation and not science. We now have a chance to start a new

and guaranteed billion-dollar marijuana industry which demands we take it seriously and even experiment with for its economic potential. We can’t afford to continue to be dead last to change, letting opportunity and the potential for real prosperity pass us by!

But even with federal law pending to legalize-it for medical use, there is an underlying and eventual goal to legalize-it for all uses. The CNMI needs to take some giant leaps for progress not baby steps as we must catch up with the rest of America, which we can do by addressing the entire issue of full legalization. Marijuana is a billion-dollar industry that is growing rapidly and the CNMI can either cash in on this industry or just let opportunity pass us by. The CNMI owes it to ourselves and I hope you will agree once you have heard all the comments to change the present bill to cover all uses of marijuana as we must at least try legalization for all uses.

In my attempt to answer the question of how or what is the best way to implement the legalization of marijuana, I applied a scientific approach for what I believe is the best methodology. The alternative solution that I wish to offer is researched-based and theoretically accurate. As a recognized, scholar, researcher, economist, and educator, the scientific approach that I am recommending to the CNMI is to legalize marijuana by way of experimentation through a “moratorium methodology.”

A moratorium is a legally authorized period of delay in the performance of a legal obligation such as a law or the payment of a debt (a waiting period). The moratorium period I am proposing will last until the next general election, at which time the people will be informed enough to make an educated vote on a permanent law based on their assessment of marijuana use during the moratorium period. All CNMI marijuana laws will be temporarily suspended and replaced with temporary laws during the moratorium period.

Until federal law is changed, the marijuana industry will continue to be subject to all kinds of criminal behavior that can’t be fully controlled as a private industry. Based on my research of existing marijuana laws and the effects of marijuana in states that have already legalized it, the safest and best methodology at this point in time is for the marijuana industry to be a government operation in partnership with private investors and businesses. The biggest challenges to legalization have been the application of controls over thousands of private businesses and individuals. However, controls will be much easier and more successful under a government operation. It would also be poetic justice for the government to make the most from something the government spent years and millions fighting.

The federal government has taken a hands-off approach to state laws on marijuana. The only instances of federal intervention were when the state’s own marijuana laws were being violated. 1. Case of the couple with 79 plants selling without a license. 2. Case of dispensaries buying from unlicensed growers.

As a former educator, I can assure you senators that the unfounded fears about our youth going crazy to smoke if it is legalized are just that—unfounded speculation and there is no proof of this in any

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Puede guaha masoda` amot chadeg para este na chetnot. Makat para i pumadedese tatfoi animuŋa para u na`lu tatte gi regulat na kinalamteŋa antes.

■■■

Ha faisen-yu` un` prohimu haf` na presisu na u eyag finu` Chamorro. Sige mona ha oppen maisague` `nai sumaunau gi halom konbetsasion i tropa. Hombre, hila` nana-ta i finu` Chamorro ya na`mamahlau para un` famamaisen haf` na debi un` ketuŋgu` liŋguahi-mu.

■■■

I liŋguahen tanu` solu sahyan ni sumede natibu fumat-ta haf` i likidu tradisiona. Gi hilu` ennaun na sahyan `nai gaige kabales espiri-tun Chamorro. Ennaun na espiritu una` oppan haf` tinatet-ta kumu natibun O`Perlas iya Pasifiku.

■■■

Man-gaige hit puntan un` tolai ni siempre ta krusa para i otu banda. Megai siha asuntu para tafagcha`e gi este na karera. I kues-tion ni sessu siempre tafana` : haf` gi todou fuetsau na modun tinilaika mauleg para kuttura yan tradision natibu?

Kau para tasede fuetsau tinilaika siha dumopbla haf` tradision tanu` pat debi u atlibes? Gaige este na asuntu gi dos patman kanai-na-ta. Maseha haf` taimanu, chatmiyu fan malelefa na gi uttimu bes-sis hita solu kapitan galaide`ta. Hita solu siŋa sumatba problema-ta mismu!

of the states that legalized it for all uses. In fact, had children gone crazy smoking, it would have been national news and we would all know but the fact that I research and looked for events but found none is proof that the children did not go crazy in the states that legalized it for all uses.

To be continued.

Ambrose Bennett is a former teacher and an advocate for the full legalization of marijuana in the Commonwealth.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Your health insurance rights under COBRA

It has come to our attention that government employees enrolled in the group health plan are not being given notice of their rights under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, or COBRA.

COBRA “gives workers and their families who lose their health benefits the right to choose to continue group health benefits provided by their group health plan for limited periods of time under certain circumstances. ...” www.dol.gov/dol/topic/health-plans/cobra.htm.

At the commencement of coverage under the plan, the administrator of the group health plan is required to provide written notice to each covered employee and spouse of the employee (if any) of the rights to continuation of coverage provided under the group health plan. A model form of notice is provided in the Appendix to 29 CFR 2590.606-1.






Likewise, when there is a “qualifying event” that would result in a loss of coverage under the group health plan, the administrator is required to give notice of the employee’s right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. A model form of this notice is provided in the Appendix to 29 CFR 2590.606-4.

If you are a member of a group health plan and do not know your rights to COBRA continuation coverage (29 U.S.C. § 1161 et seq., 29 CFR 2590 et seq.), contact your Human Resources Department. For more information about COBRA continuation coverage, check www.dol.gov/dol/topic/health-plans/cobra.htm. If you have a disability and need assistance, contact Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) at (670) 235-7273 or 7274, (670) 235-7275 (fax), or online at www.nmpasi.org.

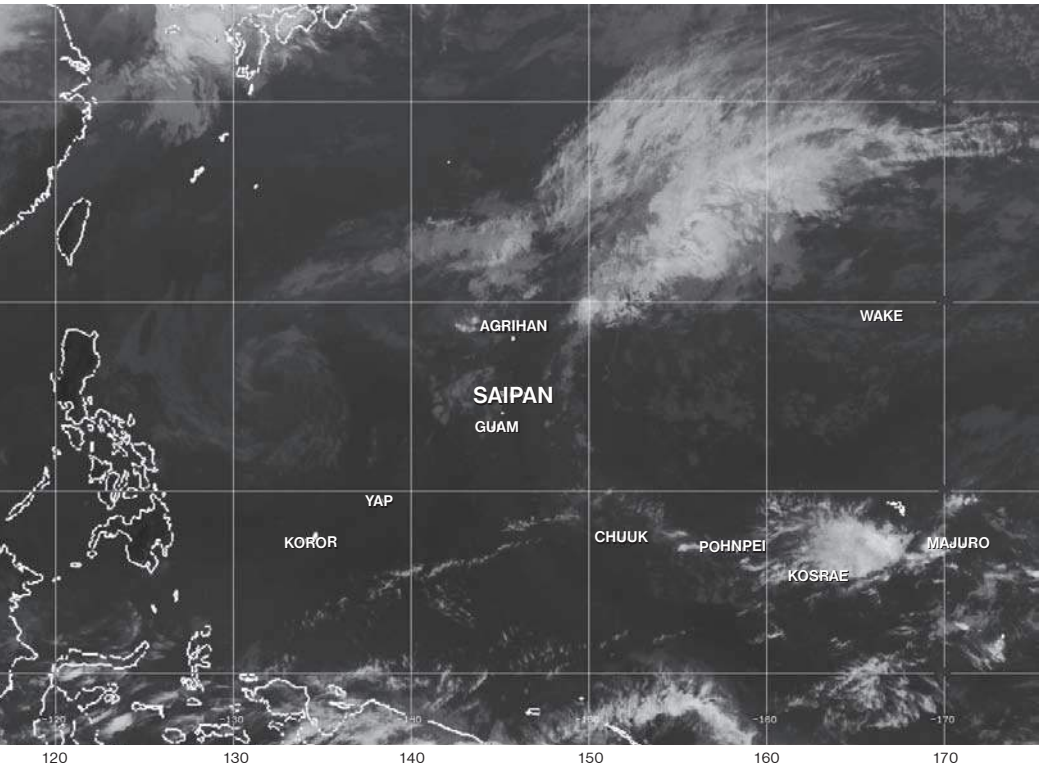
Jeanne Rayphand
Legal counsel, NMPASI

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression Bavi (03W) is centered 840 miles west-northwest of Guam near 16N132E moving west at 7 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found between 12N and 22N from 130E to 136E. For more information on Tropical Depression Bavi, refer to warnings issued by The Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPQ31 PGTW and public advisories issued by The National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A surface trough extends east-northeast from TD Bavi at 16N132E across the far northern CNMI near Asuncion Island to end west of Minami Tori Shima near 23N153E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found within 230 miles of a line from 20N136E to 24N159E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Kosrae and Majuro between 6N and 9N from 160E to 171E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia		
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Chuuk	Thunderstroms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 81
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79

Around the Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 39
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 67
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 66
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 41
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 59
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 71
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 92 ▼ 57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 69
New York	Windy	▲ 42 ▼ 29
Osaka	Rain	▲ 64 ▼ 53
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 44
Pusan	Rain	▲ 61 ▼ 44
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 48
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 40
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 64 ▼ 48
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 34



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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
8:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:21 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:20 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:05 AM	5:19P M
Friday	5:56 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	7:22 PM
Sunday	7:37 AM	8:22 PM
Monday	8:28 AM	9:22 PM

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

GOP offers \$3.8T budget that boosts defense, cuts elsewhere

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans launched a boldly conservative 10-year budget plan on Tuesday that would favor the Pentagon, partially privatize Medicare and rely on deep cuts in other social programs to help wipe out deficits at the end of a decade.

A little more than four months after winning their largest majority in 70 years, Republicans promised an overhaul of the federal tax code and called for repeal of two of the top legislative achievements of President Barack Obama's tenure in office. Those are the health care law known by his name and a measure enacted to crack down on Wall Street after the economy's near-collapse in 2008.

Republicans said their balanced-budget promise came with no tax increases, though the fine print assumes the expiration of about \$900 billion in breaks for business research and development and other items.

"The new normal of slow economic growth and low expectations is unacceptable. We know we can do better," the House Budget Committee, chaired by Rep. Tom Price of Georgia, said in a report accompanying the proposal.

It promised "greater prosperity, opportunity, security and freedom" if enacted.

Projected spending for the budget year that begins on Oct. 1 was \$3.8 trillion, rising to \$5 trillion in 2025.

Obama countered Republican claims instantly. He said the GOP prescription "is a failure to invest in education, infrastructure and national defense—all the things we need to grow, to

create jobs, to stay at the forefront of innovation and to keep our country safe."

The president's own budget calls for about \$2 trillion over 10 years in higher taxes on corporations, wealthy individuals and smokers of all income levels as part of a plan to increase spending and give tax breaks to the middle class.

Rhetoric aside, the release of the tax and spending plan in the House begins a rite of spring as reliable as the appearance of daffodil shoots on the Capitol grounds.

Senate Republicans intend to outline their own plan on Wednesday, and each house is expected to ratify its own version next week.

After that comes the harder challenge of forging a compromise between the two versions, a task that Republicans acknowledge will mark a test of their ability to govern now that they control both houses of Congress.

An even more difficult challenge follows, the translation of policy objectives into legislation that would be sent to Obama to sign or—more likely—veto. The budget also is certain to become an issue in the still-early race for the White House in 2016.

The House budget relies heavily in some areas on previous plans put together by Price's predecessor as committee chairman, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

It also adapts to changing political circumstances, most notably by offsetting a looming automatic budget cut in national security accounts.

The proposal would allow spending in the coming budget year of \$36 billion more than Obama recommended for overseas military and diplomatic efforts.

Less than half of the \$36 billion would be guaranteed, and the rest would depend on offsetting spending cuts elsewhere in the budget.

Some Republicans and out-

side groups bristled at the prospect of so large an increase, tucked into the budget in an account for overseas operations that is not subject to spending caps designed to

hold down deficits.

"I'm tired of seeing gimmicks in the budget process," said Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, a conservative and frequent critic of his party's leadership.

At the same time, the added funds could gain support for the budget from pro-Pentagon lawmakers for whom military spending is a top priority.

As in prior budgets, the House GOP budget calls for transforming Medicare into a voucher-like program for seniors who join the health care program beginning in 2024. They would receive a subsidy to purchase coverage, a step that Democrats say would effectively end the current guarantee of services pegged to a pre-determined level.

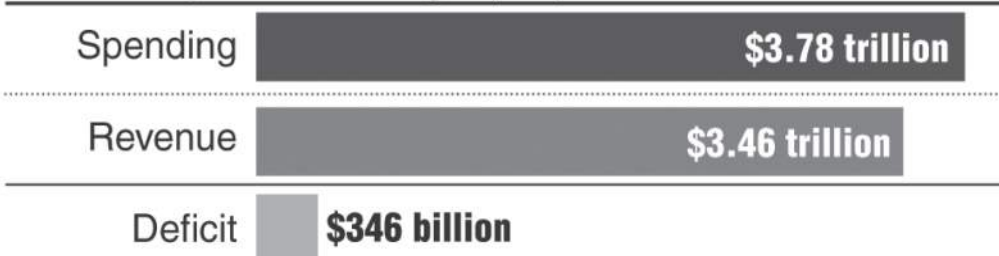
In all, Republicans said they would cut spending by nearly \$5.5 trillion over the next decade.

By far the largest portion of that, \$2 trillion, would come from repeal of the health care law that the administration said last week has meant coverage for 16.4 million previously uninsured people. Republicans pledge a replacement, but so far have offered no specifics.

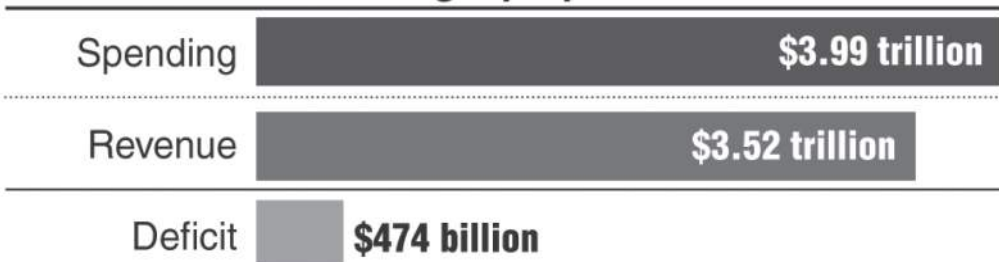
2016 budget proposals

The House Budget Committee released its proposal for the 2016 federal budget.

House Republican budget proposal



President Obama's budget proposal



Source: White House, House Budget Committee

Graphic: Tribune News Service

As Fed weighs a rate hike, US economy is looking a bit paler

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just as the Federal Reserve seems to be inching toward an interest rate hike because of the strengthening U.S. job market, its task is getting more complicated:

Several key sectors of the economy are flashing some signs of weakness.

Housing, manufacturing and consumer spending—the U.S. economy's main driver—have been tepid of late. The pace of home building plunged in February. Factory output is slowing as a rising dollar makes U.S. goods costlier overseas and weakens exports. And retail sales remain sluggish, with Americans spending less

at stores and restaurants last month.

The main engine of strength has been the U.S. job market. Employers have added more than 200,000 jobs for 12 straight months, and unemployment has reached a seven-year low of 5.5 percent, a rate typical of a healthy job market.

Yet annual wage growth remains stuck at 2 percent, a level that can't support robust gains in consumer spending and home purchases. Recently announced pay increases by Wal-Mart, the Gap and other retailers have been modest and have yet to circulate through the economy. It's hardly surprising, then, that critical

pieces of the economy remain troubled almost six years into the recovery from the worst financial catastrophe since the Great Depression.

"We're not in an economy that is fully firing on all cylinders," said Gregory Daco, an analyst at Oxford Economics. "Wage growth is still hesitant, and that has been the key element holding back the recovery."

Many economists blame, in part, snowstorms and freezing temperatures for the economy's lackluster winter. Their theory will be tested as spring arrives. If the economy fails to pick up, it may lack the vigor that Fed officials want to see before raising

their key short-term rate from a record low near zero, where it's remained since 2008.

On Wednesday, after the Fed ends a policy meeting, it's expected to drop the word "patient" from a statement describing its outlook for a rate increase. That would signal its intent to link an eventual rate increase solely to the most recent economic data and not to a pre-set timetable.

Many investors expect a rate hike as early as June. But an increase that soon might require the economy to accelerate in the next few months—and possibly for unusually low inflation to rise closer to the Fed's 2 percent target rate.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Unemployment rate drops in 24 states in January

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment rates fell in 24 states in January and rose in just eight, the latest evidence that hiring is strong across the country. The Labor Department said Tuesday that jobless rates were unchanged from December in 18 states and in Washington, D.C. North Dakota has the nation's lowest jobless rate, 2.8 percent, a sign that falling oil prices had yet to cause major layoffs in a state that has benefited from an energy boom. Mississippi and Nevada each had the highest unemployment rate, 7.1 percent. Unemployment dropped the most from January 2014 in Illinois (to 6.1 percent in January from 8.2 percent a year earlier) and in Rhode Island (to 6.5 percent from 8.6 percent). In both states, the drop in unemployment partially reflected people dropping out of the labor force. Those who are not seeking jobs aren't counted as unemployed.

Japan trade gap narrows as lower oil prices reduce imports

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's trade deficit narrowed in February, thanks to a plunge in import costs due to lower crude oil prices. It was the 32nd straight month of deficits. The Finance Ministry said Wednesday that the trade deficit fell 47 percent from a year earlier to 424.6 billion yen (\$3.5 billion) last month, compared with a gap of 1.18 trillion yen in January. The gap was smaller than expected, but belied a weakening in export volumes. Japan's trade deficit usually narrows in February. Adjusted for seasonal factors, it actually expanded, while exports fell from the month before with a sharp drop in export volumes, Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics said in a commentary. "Net trade should therefore become a drag on GDP growth soon," he said.

GOP says Obama aides meddled in 'net neutrality'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional Republicans on Tuesday accused the Federal Communications Commission of bowing to White House pressure on its "net neutrality" decision, which has angered the nation's cable and wireless giants. They said the agency's inspector general has opened an investigation into whether the FCC had violated any rules.

Samples of 1,600 pages of emails and other documents released by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee—while falling short of any blatant impropriety—raise questions about whether senior Obama aides went to unusual

lengths to engage independent regulators on a popular issue, and if the FCC gave these aides too much access to internal deliberations while shutting out Congress.

"A president should be able to weigh in, make his opinions known. I don't have a problem with that. But this seems to be very one-sided," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Still, the political sparring on Capitol Hill was unlikely to affect the recent decision by the FCC to impose tough new regulations on Internet service providers.

Chaffetz said he had been told that the FCC Inspector

General's office launched an investigation into the agency's deliberations process on its net neutrality decision. FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said he was not aware of any investigation, but said he would cooperate.

Jay Keithley, assistant IG for investigations at the FCC, said he could neither "confirm nor deny" any ongoing investigations.

An openly defiant Wheeler told the House committee that keeping the White House up to date on FCC dealings isn't unusual and that he won't apologize for what he considers a transparent deliberations process.

"There were no secret instructions from the White House,"

Wheeler told the committee. "I did not, as CEO of an independent agency, feel obligated to follow the president's recommendation."

Much of the focus was on behind-the-scenes talks last year among lobbyists, agency staffers and White House aides as Wheeler struggled with how exactly to regulate Internet service. A court had knocked down the FCC's previous legal approach, which had prohibited cable and wireless companies from blocking or slowing Internet traffic. The idea is known as net neutrality because it suggests Internet service providers shouldn't discriminate against various web traffic.



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Nation

Police carry 2 boxes from home of millionaire Durst

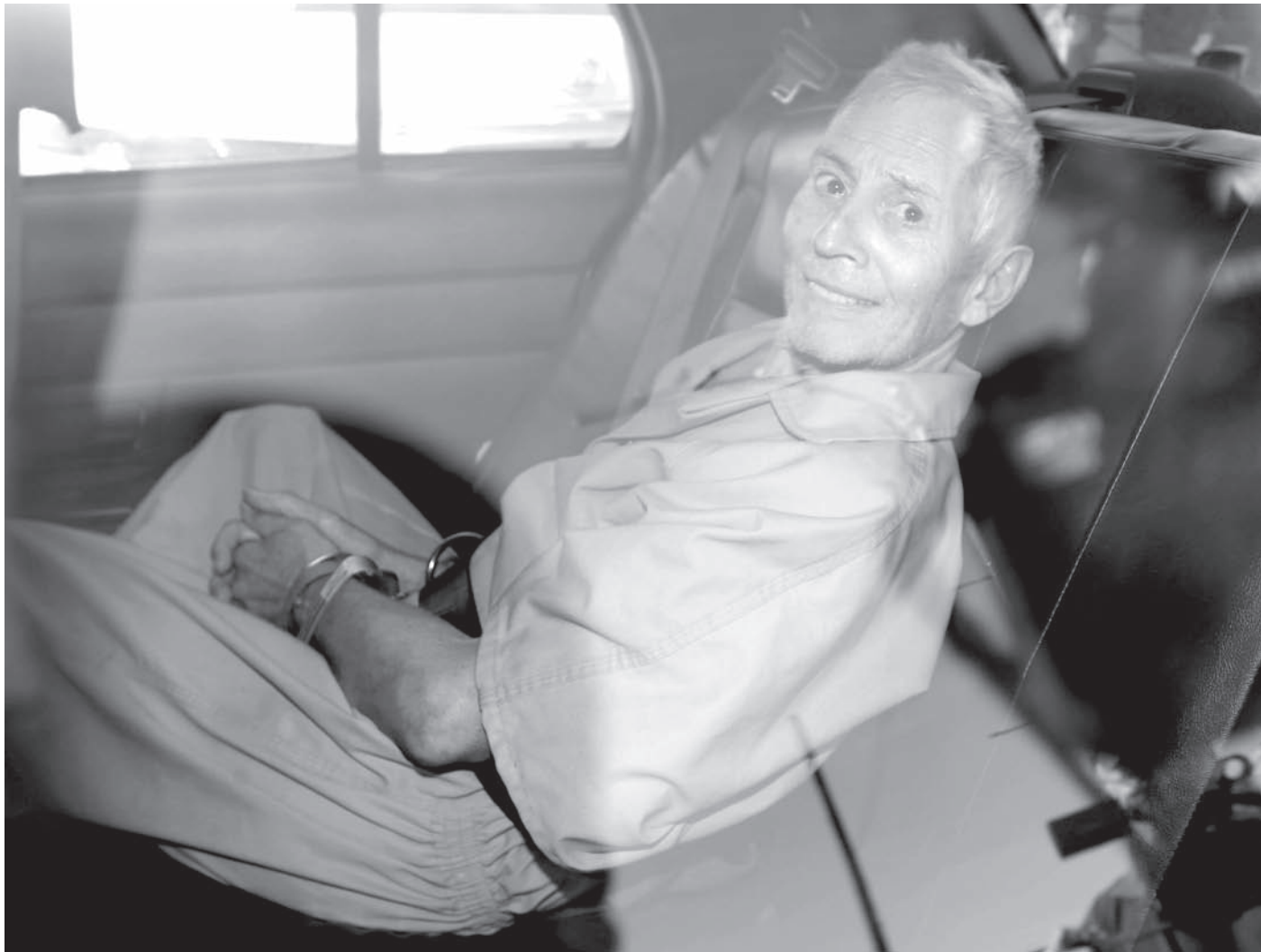
HOUSTON (AP)—Authorities on Tuesday carried away two boxes after searching the Houston home of real estate millionaire Robert Durst after his weekend arrest in New Orleans on a murder warrant.

Durst, 71, is charged with murder in a Los Angeles killing 15 years ago, and has been suspected—but never charged—in the disappearance of his first wife in New York. In 2003, he was acquitted of murder in a dismemberment death in Texas. His arrest in New Orleans came shortly before the finale of an HBO series about his links to the three killings.

Seven officers spent hours Tuesday searching Durst's home in a 17-story condominium building in a posh Houston neighborhood. About 8:30 p.m. the officers, including one wearing a Los Angeles Police Department badge, carried two white cardboard document boxes to six vehicles and left.

The officers declined to comment, except for one who confirmed they were done.

FBI spokeswoman Shauna Dunlap confirmed that FBI agents participated in the operation at the request of the Los Angeles Police Department. Harris County district attorney's office spokesman Jeff



Robert Durst is transported from Orleans Parish Criminal District Court to the Orleans Parish Prison after his arraignment in New Orleans, Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

McShan said the Los Angeles Police Department contacted his office last week.

Neither Dunlap nor McShan would elaborate on what was happening inside the building and referred questions to Los Angeles police.

LAPD spokesman Sgt. Barry Montgomery said the department is not commenting until Durst is in its custody. Durst is being held in Louisiana, where he faces drug and weapons charges, and it's not clear how soon he will be returned to California.

"This is an investigation that's being handled by multi-jurisdictions," Montgomery said. "At this juncture the only thing the LAPD is doing is waiting for the extradition. We are just waiting on him to make it into our custody."

Durst, 71, was charged Monday in Los Angeles with first-degree murder in the shooting of Susan Berman, the daughter of a prominent Las Vegas mobster. He could face the death penalty under special circumstances that allege he ambushed her and murdered a witness to a crime.

Dick DeGuerin, Durst's longtime Houston defense attorney, said he was baffled by what investigators could be looking for in the condo building.

Sudden fall: Illinois Rep. Aaron Schock is resigning

WASHINGTON (AP)—Illinois Rep. Aaron Schock abruptly resigned Tuesday following a monthlong cascade of revelations about his business deals and lavish spending on everything from overseas travel to office decor in the style of "Downton Abbey."

"I do this with a heavy heart," Schock said in a statement. He said he had given the people of his Peoria-area district his all since his election in 2008, "but the constant questions over the last six weeks have proven a great distraction that has made it too difficult for me to serve the people of

the 18th District with the high standards that they deserve and which I have set for myself."

Schock, 33, a young, media-savvy Republican, had drawn attention for his physical fitness and fundraising prowess. But more recently he has come under scrutiny for extravagant spending, payments to donors for flights on private jets and improperly categorized expenses.

The questions raised have included Associated Press in-

vestigations of his real estate transactions, air travel and Instagram use. On Monday, the

AP confirmed that the Office of Congressional Ethics had reached out to Schock's associates as it apparently began an investigation.

In a statement, House Speaker John Boehner said:

"With this decision, Rep. Schock has put the best interests of his constituents and the House first. I appreciate Aaron's years of service, and I wish him well in the future."



Schock

Schock did not inform any House leaders before making his decision, and the announcement took Republicans by surprise. Although the questions around his spending had begun to attract attention and raise concerns, he was not yet facing concerted public pressure from party members to step down.

He is the second House Republican to give up his seat this year under unfavorable circumstances. Michael Grimm, who pleaded guilty on tax evasion charges, resigned his New York seat in early January.

Mom was ordered away from baby she's accused of decapitating

CINCINNATI (AP)—A woman accused of decapitating her 3-month-old daughter had been ordered by a court to stay away from the child, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

Deasia Watkins had been forbidden to have contact with the baby after she was hospitalized for psychiatric problems, authorities said.

The baby had been placed in an aunt's custody, and a 5-year-old at the aunt's house with other children to catch a school bus on Monday found the baby's body on a kitchen counter, Hamilton County prosecutor Joe Deters said. The aunt apparently was asleep, and the child ran outside for help from a male relative who had dropped them off, Deters said.

Police arriving in response to a 911 call found the baby decapitated and stabbed multiple times with a large chef's knife.

The aunt apparently had let the baby's mother move in with her and the baby about a week earlier, Deters said.

Police found the 20-year-old mother in bed covered with blood, he said, and she was arrested and charged with aggravated murder.

"This is one of the most disturbing cases I have ever seen in my life," Deters said.

The baby's injuries also included a fractured arm, county coroner Dr. Lakshmi Sammarco said. The knife used to kill the baby had been placed in the baby's hand, authorities said.

"These are images that will be indelibly marked in my memory," Sammarco said.

Deters said the mother hadn't spoken and remained under guard at a hospital, where she couldn't be reached for comment. The prosecutor said he doesn't anticipate seeking the death penalty in the case.

"It was pretty clear to the officers involved that she is suffering from some serious mental issues," Deters said.

In the 911 call, a woman who apparently was the aunt can be heard crying hysterically and asking for help while repeating, "Oh, my God!"

"My niece killed her baby," she said.

She told the dispatcher that she was asleep when her son, who had come to drop off the children, came in and woke her up, saying the baby was dead.

The son then told the dispatcher that he had seen the baby's body on the kitchen counter but did not know what happened.

"It's a very violent scene," he said.

Penn State frat suspended for year over nude Facebook photos

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A Penn State University fraternity was suspended for a year Tuesday after police began investigating allegations that members used a private, invitation-only Facebook page to post photos of nude and partly nude women, some apparently asleep or passed out.

A former member of Kappa Delta Rho at the university's flagship campus in State College tipped police off to the page, telling them in January that it had been used by members to share photos of "unsuspecting victims, drug sales and hazing," according to a copy of a police warrant ob-

tained by The Associated Press.

The ex-member also provided authorities with printouts from the page.

The fraternity's national executive director, Joe Rosenberg, told the Penn State chapter in a letter that it would be banned from most activities for the near future and must reorganize.

He said the suspension was "for the most serious misconduct, most serious disregard of fraternity rules."

Chapter officials, who can appeal the decision, did not respond to messages seeking comment. A young man who answered the door Tuesday

afternoon declined to identify himself and said the fraternity had no comment.

A Penn State administrator called the allegations a violation of the standards and values required for recognized student organizations.

"The evidence offered by the Facebook postings is appalling, offensive and inconsistent" with the university's expectations, Damon Sims, Penn State's vice president for student affairs, said in a news release.

Sims said the school would find those responsible and hold them accountable.

Police said anyone who posted

the photos could face misdemeanor charges of harassment or invasion of privacy, with a fine being the most likely penalty.

State College police said they first fielded the complaint on Jan. 18 and reported the matter to university administrators on March 3.

The informant's computer "yielded information on two victims whose images would rise to the level of criminal action," State College police Lt. Keith Robb said Tuesday.

Facebook was contacted to disable the site and to obtain more information for the investigation, Robb said.

Asia

Pakistan executes 12 in single day, officials promise more

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani officials on Tuesday executed 12 people in the country's single-largest day of executions since a moratorium on the death penalty was lifted in December, officials said.

The executions are sure to raise concerns over due process and proper oversight of the country's troubled criminal justice system, which rights groups say often does little to protect defendants.

Authorities at different jails in the country's largest province of Punjab hanged 10 people Tuesday who had been sentenced to death in murder cases, said the provincial Home Minister Shuja Khanzada. He said authorities planned to execute more convicted criminals in the coming weeks.

"We have started a process, and it will continue," he told The Associated Press.

The superintendent of the main jail in the southern port city of Karachi, Qazi Nazir, said they executed two convicted murderers and handed the bodies over to their families.

Late last year, Pakistan's prime minister lifted the death-penalty moratorium specifically for terrorism-related cases after a December Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar killed 150 people, most of them children. Last week, in a controversial step, the government completely lifted the death-penalty ban for all cases. Human rights groups estimate Pakistan has roughly 8,000 prisoners on death row.

One of the most closely watched execution cases is that of Shafqat Hussain, who family members say was 14 when he was sentenced to death by a court in Karachi for the murder of a seven-year-old boy.

Hussain's family proclaims his innocence and Justice Project Pakistan, the legal group handling his case, says Hussain was tortured into making a false confession. Hussain is scheduled to be hanged on March 19.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen shot and killed a former lawyer for the Pakistani doctor who helped the U.S. find Osama bin Laden.

The lawyer Samiullah Khan Afridi was assassinated Tuesday in the northwestern city of Peshawar before fleeing, senior police officer Shakir Khan said.

The lawyer was killed months after he announced that he will no longer be representing Dr. Shakil Afridi Afridi, who was convicted in May 2012 of "conspiring against the state" by giving money and providing medical treatment to militants, not for helping the CIA track down bin Laden.

PH: 4 Filipino nurses in Libya safe, not kidnapped

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government said Tuesday that four Filipino nurses reported to have been kidnapped from a Libyan hospital by militants from an Islamic State group affiliate were actually taken to a safe place by a friend and were not abducted.

The Philippine Embassy in Tripoli got in touch with one of the nurses, who said they were all safe, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said.

An official of a militia battling the Islamic State group affiliate had reported the kidnappings in the Libyan city of Sirte on Monday.

Jose, however, said "a local friend who was concerned for their safety" had actually taken

the nurses from their accommodation to a "safer place."

"Our embassy in Tripoli verified this information and the four Filipinos were not actually kidnapped," Jose told reporters. "They were actually taken from their accommodation to a safer place, and our charge d'affaires from our embassy has actually talked to one of them and they said they are safe."

An official from the 166 Battalion, which is battling the Islamic State group affiliate, had said the kidnappings took place Monday afternoon at Sirte's main hospital, Ibn Sina. He said his battalion helped evacuate the remaining foreign medical crew in the hospital to the Libyan city of Misrata, where

the battalion is based.

There was no word about the fate of seven Filipino oil field workers kidnapped recently in Libya, Jose said, adding that the Philippine Embassy was still trying to determine their whereabouts. No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions and the workers' employers have not received any ransom demand, he said.

The Philippines, one of the world's largest labor exporters, has banned the deployment of workers to Libya due to the escalating violence in the country. About 4,000 Filipino workers and dependents have remained in Libya despite a government offer to repatriate them, Jose said.

outside firms to audit them, though they must be incorporated in China. The move comes amid a spreading anti-corruption campaign that appears to be aimed at tightening the ruling Communist Party's control over politically influential state companies. This week, the party announced that the vice chairman of PetroChina, Asia's biggest oil and gas producer, was under investigation.

Beijing police detain Malaysian over robbery with toy gun

BEIJING (AP)—A Malaysian robbery suspect was captured 22 minutes after he grabbed watches from a downtown Beijing luxury store while carrying a black toy gun, police said Tuesday. Moi Kit Leng, 38, was detained on suspicion of robbery Monday evening after the robbery at a shopping center in the bustling Wangfujing district, the police said. The Beijing News identified the retailer as a Cartier store. Wangfujing is one of the country's top shopping districts and is close to China's political center of Tiananmen Square, so it is usually heavily guarded with security personnel. The man told police he wanted to rob the store because he lacked money, a police statement said.

World

Netanyahu emerges with slight edge

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to fend off a strong challenge from the country's opposition leader in parliamentary elections Tuesday, emerging from an acrimonious campaign in a slightly better position to form Israel's next government.

But with the sides nearly evenly divided, a victory by Netanyahu's Likud Party still was not guaranteed. His chief rival, Isaac Herzog of the Zionist Union, said he would make "every effort" to form a government, and an upstart centrist party led by a former Netanyahu ally-turned-rival was set to be the kingmaker. The country now heads into what could be weeks of negotiations over the makeup of the next coalition.

Both Netanyahu and Herzog will now compete for a chance to form a coalition that commands a majority in the 120-seat parliament, a daunting task in Israel's



AP
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greets supporters at the party's election headquarters in Tel Aviv Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

fractured political landscape. Netanyahu appeared to have a better chance of cobbling together a government with right-wing and religious parties that he calls his "natural allies." Herzog would have to appeal to more ideologically diverse parties.

Either will likely need the support of Moshe Kahlon, whose new Kulanu party captured nine or 10 seats, according to polls. Kahlon, whose campaign focused almost

entirely on bread-and-butter economic issues, refused to take sides.

"I am loyal to my way," he told his supporters, saying he would work to form a government committed to social justice.

The election was widely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu, who has governed the country for the past six years, and recent opinion polls had given Herzog a slight lead.

Activists accuse Syrian military of poison gas attack

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian activists and the Western-backed opposition accused the government Tuesday of carrying out a chlorine gas attack against a rebel-held town that killed at least six people and left dozens, including children, choking and gasping for breath.

The purported use of poison gas on the town of Sarmin in northwestern Idlib province is the first alleged chemical attack since the U.N. Security Council approved a U.S.-drafted resolution this month that condemns the use of toxic chemicals such as chlorine in Syria. That measure also threatens military action in case of further violations.

But any such action would require the consent

of the Security Council, which remains deeply divided over Syria's civil war. The U.S. and its allies support the opposition, while Russia backs Syrian President Bashar Assad—and Moscow has used its veto on several occasions to shield its ally.

The attack on Sarmin, located some eight kilometers (five miles) east of Idlib city, took place late Monday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees activist collective. The two activist groups said that six people were killed and dozens more suffered from severe breathing difficulties.

A Syrian military official



in Damascus denied any government role in the attack and blamed it on rebels. "The army did not and will never use any internationally-prohibited weapon," the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Talks wrap up and Cuba's leader lambastes US over Venezuela

HAVANA (AP)—A third round of negotiations over the restoration of full diplomatic relations ended after a day of talks, Cuban and U.S. officials said Tuesday. Hours later, Cuban President Raul Castro delivered a toughly worded attack on the United States for levying a new round of sanctions on his country's closest ally, Venezuela.

Neither Cuba nor the U.S. provided details on whether progress was made toward a deal on reopening embassies in Washington and Havana.

The two countries have been trying to strike an agree-

ment on embassies before presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro attend the Summit of the Americas in Panama on April 10-11.

Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Relations said the talks took place "in a professional atmosphere" and "the two delegations agreed to maintain communication in the future as part of this process." Jeff Rathke, a U.S. State Department spokesman, said that "the discussion was positive and constructive and was held in an atmosphere of mutual respect."

But Castro later delivered a searing defense of Venezuela at an emergency meet-

ing of leftist Latin American governments called in response to U.S. sanctions levied on seven Venezuelan officials last week. In announcing the move, the U.S. declared Venezuela a threat to U.S. national security.

Washington has asserted that the Venezuelan sanctions wouldn't affect its negotiations with Cuba, but Castro made clear in Caracas that he sees the two issues as linked.

He described Obama's declaration of detente with Cuba as a recognition that a U.S. policy of hostility to Latin American socialism had failed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Strong undersea earthquake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong undersea earthquake struck off eastern Indonesia on Wednesday, but there are no immediate reports of injuries or damage and no tsunami warning was issued. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck early Wednesday with a magnitude of 6.6. It was located 136 kilometers (85 miles) northwest of Ternate, the capital of North Maluku province. It had a depth of 41 kilometers (25 miles). Jerisman Purba, an official at Indonesia's Meteorology Climatology and Geophysics Agency, said there was no potential for a tsunami to be triggered. He said so far there were reports of strong jolts in Ternate, but no damage.

China announces audit of state company assets abroad

BEIJING (AP)—China announced plans to audit foreign assets of its biggest banks, oil producers and other government companies in a new move to tighten control over state industry. The Cabinet agency that oversees companies including PetroChina Ltd. and China Mobile Ltd. says it will hire

Environment

Researchers find a new way to clear the air

By JAMES URTON
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

PALO ALTO, Calif.—In 1999, then-Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji said that Beijing's pall of smog "would shorten my life at least five years," a hazard level scientists affirmed two years ago with a study of China's air pollution. That reality that did not sit well with Stanford University researcher Yi Cui, who makes frequent trips to China.

"The air pollution there is terrible," Cui said. "I decided we needed to do something about it."

He didn't realize it at the time, but a solution was in his gloved hands every day at his Palo Alto laboratory, where his team works on touch-screen and battery technologies.

Cui challenged his team at Stanford to come up with an approach that could make a dent in Beijing's lifespan-shaving smog. His researchers discovered that a mesh made from polyacrylonitrile, a chemical used to produce surgical gloves, had a remarkable appetite for air pollutants. They developed a thin filter that gobbled up even the smallest pollutants, and it could absorb many times its own weight in sooty particles.

"The chemical composition of the fiber here is the key," said fellow Stanford professor Lynn Hildemann, who was not affiliated with Cui's research. Other scientists have shown that small fibers are better at trapping air pollutants, but not using this material.



AP
Pedestrians wearing mask against heavy pollution wait to cross a traffic junction in Beijing, Monday, March 16, 2015. The Chinese capital struggles with persistent pollution tied to rapid growth in number of cars and coal burning power plants powering the ever growing city.

Now, Cui and his team hope their innovative approach can help clear the air by the lungful for people living in high pollution zones in Beijing and beyond.

Even moderate levels of air pollution contribute to respiratory and cardiac ailments. In 2013, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified outdoor air pollution as a cancer-causing agent. The most hazardous parts of air pollution are "fine particles," airborne chemicals and compounds smaller

than 2.5 microns (about 1,000 times smaller than the smallest grains of sand). People in high pollution zones inhale fine particles deep into their lungs, where they can become lodged or even enter the bloodstream. The World Health Organization's Global Burdens of Disease project estimated that air pollution contributed to 3.2 million deaths worldwide in 2010, including more than 200,000 deaths from lung cancer.

From 2010 to 2012, the American Lung Association

reported that more than 46 million people in the United States live in counties with unhealthy levels of particulate air pollution. The five worst metropolitan areas were Fresno, Visalia, Los Angeles, Bakersfield and Modesto.

Cui's team used a technique called electrospinning to create filters made from different industrial polymers, explained Stanford graduate students Chong Liu and Po-Chun Hsu. Electrospinning uses an electric field to pull a thick liquid polymer into thin threads just

one-thousandth the width of a human hair and deposit them on a surface to dry.

Liu, Hsu and their colleagues tested how well different meshes, each made from a unique type of polymer, filtered particles in the air. Each polymer has its own chemical properties, which will affect how it will interact with pollution particles, Liu said. "How 'sticky' the surface is determines" whether a particular mesh will hold on to these pollutants, she added.

They exposed each mesh to simulated air pollution from an unlikely source: burning incense.

The incense smoke had air particles of a similar size to the air pollution that plagues cities in northern China, including the fine particles that are the greatest threat to human

health. The polyacrylonitrile mesh grabbed and held onto more than 99 percent of all the air particulates, including more than 98 percent of fine particles. The filter could collect up to 10 times its own weight.

"That actually surprised me," Cui said. "This filter is so efficient and takes in so many particles."

Cui's team didn't need to force air through the filter. The fibers in the mesh were so thin that air could flow through it and the polymer could seize pollutants as they passed. One member of Cui's team even took a polyacrylonitrile filter to China in July. He discovered that the filter removed 99 percent of pollutant particles from the air that passed through it on a hazardous air quality day.

The filters they made also were at least 70 percent transparent, which the scientists hope will make polyacrylonitrile filters an attractive option for window screens in homes and apartments.

"The sunlight can still come in," Cui said.

Current window filters lack this transparency and block out sunlight, said Al Veeck, executive director of the National Air Filtration Association.

"It utilizes the best of both worlds," he said. "It's using outdoor air and filtering it in a more natural setting."

The filter's thinness and transparency also could make it easy to incorporate into other devices to filter out pollutants.

"It might improve airflow in personal masks," Liu said.

US agency warns of warmer, less productive Pacific

Starving sea lion pups and seabirds up and down the U.S. West Coast this year may be part of a large-scale shift of the Pacific

Ocean to warmer and less productive conditions, according to a new federal fisheries report.

The National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration presented the findings on the warming Pacific in an annual report on the state of the waters

off California.

"We are in some ways entering a situation we haven't seen before," Cisco Werner, director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California, said in a statement from NOAA. The situation demands that scientists consider the impact on ocean life as a whole, Werner said.

From 2014, waters off Southern California and the Gulf of Alaska turned significantly warmer than usual. The so-called "warm blobs" have grown to cover most of the West Coast, making for record-high water temperatures.

Tiny, energy-rich organisms that support the West Coast food chain have suffered in the warming water, the report said. Discoveries of large numbers of emaciated young sea lions off California and starving seabirds off Oregon and Washington may reflect dwindling nourishment overall as the Pacific warms, the study said. **(AP)**



In this March 2, 2015 file photo, from left, Kirsten Sedlick, Daniel Connor, Ashley Cook and Brennan Slavik tube-feed the rescued sea lion pups at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach, Calif.

6,063 endangered manatees are counted in annual Florida survey

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP)—State wildlife officials have tallied a record number of manatees in their annual survey of the endangered marine mammals.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said Monday that it counted 6,063 manatees this year.

The state conducts the aerial surveys each year, depending on the weather. Biologist Holly Edwards says this year's survey was helped by sunny weather that led manatees to bask at the surface as they crowded

into warm waters.

The 2015 tally tops the previous record set in 2010 by about 1,000 manatees. That doesn't mean Florida's manatee population has grown by that much, but commission chairman Richard Corbett says counting over 6,000 manatees shows that long-term manatee conservation efforts are working.

The federal government is reviewing whether the manatee population has rebounded enough to be reclassified as a threatened, not endangered, species.

Life & Style

'The Sound of Music' film celebrates a golden anniversary

NEW YORK (AP)—The hills are alive with the sound of a big, lucrative anniversary.

The 1965 Oscar-winning film adaptation of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music" is celebrating its 50th birthday this year and its star Julie Andrews can't quite believe it.

"This is a lovely moment to mark. I've been saying all along it's like a very bad joke because surely it was only 30 years ago—not 50," she said. "I feel I lost 20 somewhere along the way. A little thing called life got in the way."

The movie that popularized whiskers on kittens and warm woolen mittens isn't holding back on its golden anniversary: There are events, DVDs, books, soundtracks and screenings.

Other American movie musicals may be revered—"Cabaret" and "West Side Story," for example—but few are as beloved as "The Sound of Music." Andrews, 79, thinks she knows why.

"This one stuck because it was very well made with beautiful music and a lot of glorious assets like scenery and mountains and children and an adventure story and a love story and all of that," she said.

To honor the milestone, 20th Century Fox is releasing a five-disc Blue-ray/DVD collection, the soundtrack is being

re-released, and the film will be screened at the TCM Classic Film Festival in Hollywood later this month and over 500 movie theaters in April.

Four new books about the film are being published, and there's a Diane Sawyer-led "20/20" special airing on ABC at 10 p.m. EDT Wednesday featuring an interview with Andrews in Austria, where the story was set. Princess Cruises will also celebrate the anniversary with special screenings and sing-alongs.

The musical and movie are a fictionalized account of the life of Maria von Trapp and tell the story of a 1930s governess who teaches her charges to sing and falls in love with her employer, naval captain Georg von Trapp, and the family's flight before World War II.

Angela Cartwright, who played Brigitta von Trapp, said cast members have gone through ups and downs and births and deaths during the past 50 years but "when we all get together, we pick up where we left off."

"It was an honor to be a part of such a great movie," she said. "When we were filming it, we had no idea that it was going to last and be so successful. It was such a charmed part of my life."

Not everyone is reveling in the film anniversary with the same fervency, especially her 85-year-old co-star Christopher Plummer, who played Captain von Trapp and has in the past



This photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment shows, from left, Charmian Carr, as Liesl, Nicholas Hammond, as Friedrich, Julie Andrews, as Maria, Heather Menzies (back row) as Louisa, Duane Chase, as Kurt, and Angela Cartwright, as Brigitta, front row, from left, Kym Karath, as Gretl, and Debbie Turner, as Marta, in a scene from the film, "The Sound of Music."

derisively called the film "The Sound of Mucus."

"I've never really knocked the movie; I just knocked the experience of playing a part which I didn't think was very exciting, that's all," he said. "I thought I was the cat's meow and this was very much inferior stuff."

Andrews doesn't begrudge Plummer his view and the

two have remained buddies. In fact, Plummer's less-than-earnest performance may have helped the movie.

"He gave it an astringency the film needed because it is a slightly saccharine story," said Andrews. "He was so great in it and we stayed good, good friends."

Even before this year, "The Sound of Music" was never far

from the popular consciousness. Kelly Clarkson and Mary J. Blige both recently covered "My Favorite Things" and NBC cast Carrie Underwood as Maria in its live version in 2013, which drew 18.6 million viewers.

Andrews, who called Underwood's performance as Maria "wonderful," is not precious about holding onto the role. She

wants more people to play it and try their hand at putting on a musical she calls a "gift."

"After 50 years, one should be allowed to interpret it any way you hope to do it. Do it with puppetry. Do it with live actors. Do it any way. Because it's a classic," she said. "It is a gift, in a way, to all of us."

This year, we've had an extended "Sound of Music" medley by Lady Gaga at the Oscars and a brief nod to the film in Jason Robert Brown's movie musical "The Last Five Years." A national tour of the musical led by Tony Award-winning director Jack O'Brien will launch in September in Los Angeles.

It's not a bad legacy for an \$8 million film that originated as a Tony Award-winning Broadway show but was critically panned. (One prominent critic called it a "sugar-coated lie.") The film won five Oscars and stands as the No. 3 domestic box office champion of all time, adjusted for inflation, following "Gone With the Wind" and "Star Wars."

But for Andrews, the 50th anniversary, for which she has endured hours of questions from journalists with her typical uncommon dignity and good humor, may mark the last celebration.

"I think this is probably it, I would imagine. People have been joking with me all along, saying 'You'll be back for the 100th,'" she said, laughing. "The mind boggles."

Checking in with the von Trapp kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seven young actors became part of cinematic history when they were cast as the von Trapp children in Rogers & Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music"—and they also became lifelong friends. Known as "The SoM 7," they formed their own sort of family over the months of making the musical. Their parents befriended one another as the young performers traveled to Austria for filming, and the actors themselves have remained close for decades.

"We're beyond friends. We're second family," said Kym Karath, who played the youngest von Trapp, Gretl. "As adults, we were deeply bonded, so our lives have really interwoven with each other."

As "The Sound of Music" celebrates its 50th anniversary, here's a look at what the "SoM 7" are doing now:

■ **LIESL:** Now 72, Charmian Carr played the eldest von Trapp daughter and has published two books about her experience making the film: "Forever Liesl" and "Letters to Liesl." She maintains a website (charmiancarr.com) where she



sells the custom furniture she designs, as well as autographed photos from her "Sound of Music" days. She lives in Southern California and regularly sees her "Sound of Music" sisters.

■ **BRIGITTA:** Angela Cartwright, who started performing



at age 3, went on to star in the TV series "Lost in Space" and "Make Room for Granddaddy" after playing Brigitta in "The Sound of Music." She traded acting for other artistic pursuits after having children. Now 62, Cartwright works as a photographer, painter and writer in Los Angeles. Her most recent book was released last year: "Styling the Stars: Lost Treasures from the Twentieth Century Fox Archive."

■ **KURT:** Duane Chase, who played little brother Kurt von Trapp, continued acting until his



teens, including an appearance in the 1966 Kurt Russell film, "Follow Me, Boys!" Chase switched gears in college, earning a bachelor's and master's

degree in geology and working as a software engineer. Now 64, he recently went on sabbatical and is considering retirement. He lives near Seattle with his wife and their two cats.

■ **FRIEDRICH:** For Nicholas Hammond, who portrayed the eldest von Trapp son, "The



Sound of Music" came early in a still-thriving entertainment career. Hammond continued to collect film and TV credits as he pursued an English literature degree at Princeton. Now 64, he lives in Australia and works as an actor, writer and director.

■ **GRET:** Kym Karath was only 5 years old when she played Gretl von Trapp. She quit acting for high school and college at USC, and focused on parenting rather than performing to care for her disabled



son. Along with other parents, Karath helped establish the Aurelia Foundation, which provides services for special-needs individuals once they finish high school. Now 56, Karath is returning to her entertainment career as an actress and writer.

■ **LOUISA:** "The Sound of Music" was Heather Menzies-Urich's first movie. She con-



tinued acting after she wed actor Robert Urich, but stopped when their children were born. Now 65, Menzies-Urich runs the nonprofit organization she established after her husband died from a rare form of cancer. The Robert Urich Foundation provides funding for cancer research and to help families relocate for specialized treatment.

■ **MARTA:** Debbie Turner was as much an athlete as an actress as a child, and she opted



for sports after playing Marta von Trapp. (A lifetime of skiing earned the 58-year-old a knee replacement earlier this year.) Turner owns a floral-design business in Minnesota. She recently was called on to provide flowers for a wedding in Salzburg, Austria, at a palace that inspired the sets of "The Sound of Music."

The rebellious women of 'Insurgent' break the action mold

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On the surface, “Insurgent,” with its dystopian setting and teenage heroine, might just seem like another by-the-numbers young adult tale. Look a little closer and it’s clear that this second installment isn’t merely capitalizing on a popular genre, but, with its half dozen female leads and supporting characters, actually represents a subtle subversion of what audiences have been taught action films should be.

When women lead up action-driven films and franchises, it’s usually one exceptional gal

against the world. Here, they’re all over the place, serving as leaders, radicals and rebels, each wildly diverse, complicated, charismatic and flawed in their own unique way.

“Insurgent,” out Friday, picks up shortly after the events of the first film, and finds Tris (Shailene Woodley) exposed as a state-wanted “divergent,” or someone who doesn’t fit into the five designated factions, and on the run from Jeanine (Kate Winslet), the controlling, ruthless leader whose goal is to extradite

Tris’s kind from the society.

Still shaken from the violent deaths of her parents and friend in the first film and on a path to self-actualization, Tris encounters a number of adults hoping to mold her in their image, including franchise newcomers Johanna (Octavia Spencer), the stoic Amity leader with the mysterious scar on her face, and Evelyn (Naomi Watts), a factionless revolutionary with cryptic motives who also happens to be the estranged mother of Tris’s boyfriend Four (Theo James).

Credit for populating the world with strong female characters goes to author Veronica Roth, who saw “Insurgent” as a chance to really flesh out the environment around Tris.

“It was very intentional for me that most of the leaders in Tris’s world would be women, and not necessarily the good guys all the time,” said Roth on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles.

“I think it’s equally important to have female villains. When people notice that there’s not a lot of representation in a particular area they try to make those

characters holy symbols that are pure and good. That does a disservice to women,” she said.

Producer Lucy Fisher was particularly delighted by the sheer number of significant moments between the female characters, noting that the film easily passes the Bechdel Test (meaning there must be at least one scene where two female characters with names discuss something other than a man).

“She has a scene with each woman saying, ‘I’m not going to be who you want me to be,’” said Fisher, who, along with husband and co-producer Douglas Wick is often driven to female-centric projects.

“We like female empowerment,” she said, adding that they did try to get a woman in the director’s chair, before ultimately deciding on German filmmaker Robert Schwentke.

Despite Johanna’s limited on-screen time in this film, Spencer said it was a no-brainer to join the project. Not only was she a fan of the book, but she and Roth had met and bonded at a book event years earlier.

Winslet on the perks of not being pregnant in ‘Insurgent’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For Kate Winslet, one of the more exciting things about returning to play the coldblooded Jeanine in the second installment of the “Divergent” series is the fact that she wasn’t pregnant this time.

“It affects your ability to feel like you’re not actually disappearing,” said Winslet, 39. “I just didn’t feel very together at all, physically or mentally. I don’t have those great, strong, glowing pregnancies.”

“It was really wonderful to be in a position where I did have my brain back,” she said. Shailene Woodley noted that she was afraid to be too physical with Winslet during “Divergent,” but that the gloves came off this time.

In their work, Woodley and Winslet have developed a bond that goes beyond a co-star connection. Both got their first significant burst of fame at age 21, Winslet with “Titanic,” and Woodley with her role in “Divergent.”

Though Woodley credits Winslet with offering her helpful advice about the temporality of celebrity, Winslet said that Woodley’s steadfast goals are what will see her through trying times, even in an environment of heightened scrutiny and access.

“She has values that are very, very important to her and she lives by them 100 percent. That is very unusual. I don’t think I possessed to that extent,” said Winslet, who still avoids media, social and otherwise, as a rule.

“It’s how I’ve stayed sane. I don’t read reviews. I don’t read magazine articles that I’ve been

“I kind of stalked her,” said Spencer with a laugh.

“We talked about (Spencer) and the question of race came up because she’s not written as African American but to us it seemed like a great idea,” added Fisher. Unexpected casting informed most of their decisions surrounding the characters in the franchise.

Fisher and her team liked the idea of Watts, too, because she didn’t exactly fit the mold of a “tough,” which makes her even more mysterious on the screen.

For Watts, the only real hesitation came when she realized she’d be playing the mother to an actor only 16 years her junior.

“I thought, ‘Oh what the heck. She was young,’” said Watts.

Ultimately, though, the story belongs to Tris, who’s at a sort of crossroads in figuring out who she wants to be amid harsh directives from the leadership, her family, and the various fractionalized micro societies.

“I think ‘Insurgent’ is my favorite in terms of her character. It’s kind of like the crucible for Tris,” said Roth.



AP

In this Friday, March 6, 2015 photo, from left, producer, Lucy Wick, author, Veronica Roth, actresses, Shailene Woodley, Octavia Spencer, and Naomi Watts pose for a portrait during press day for the film, “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” at the Four Seasons Hotel, in Los Angeles. The movie opens in U.S. theaters on Friday, March 20, 2015.

Lincoln assassination artifacts reunited at Ford’s Theatre

WASHINGTON (AP)—Beyond his famous words, the tangible artifacts President Abraham Lincoln left behind after his assassination were scattered for decades, kept in family collections and by the government and museums from Washington to Chicago.

Now for the first time since April 1865, curators have brought together most of the artifacts from the night the 16th president was shot at Ford’s Theatre just blocks from the White House. A new exhibition, “Silent Witnesses: Artifacts of the Lincoln Assassination,” running from next Monday to May 25 at the theater’s campus will give an unprecedented look at Lincoln’s death 150 years later.

The tiny Deringer pistol that delivered the fatal wound, a blood-stained flag and garments used to cradle Lincoln’s head and his coat and top hat offer an intimate look at a moment that changed history, said Ford’s Theatre curator Tracey Avant.

“There were real people be-

hind these artifacts,” she said. “We’ll never know what would have happened if he hadn’t been assassinated, but we know the impact he has left even with his life being cut short.”

Curators present the history in four acts to show how Lincoln’s final night transpired.

Act 1: A Night Out

Starting five blocks away from the theater at the National Museum of American History, visitors can see the black carriage that brought the president and Mary Todd Lincoln to Ford’s Theatre along with a young couple as their guests, Major Henry Rathbone and his fiancée Clara Harris. In those days, presidents provided their own transportation, and this was one of the Lincolns’ three carriages.

A playbill would have greeted the Lincoln party when they arrived, announcing the final night of the comedy “Our American Cousin.” Orchestra seats were \$1, while private box seats sold for \$6 and \$10.

Act 2: The President’s Arrival

The Lincolns arrived late

to Ford’s Theatre, and the performance had already begun. Actress and theater manager Laura Keane saw the first family and stopped the show, and the orchestra played “Hail to the Chief,” drawing cheers and applause.

A rarely seen violin and drum sticks from the theater’s musicians now recall that moment. Theater goers later said that Lincoln looked happier than he had looked in years.

Lincoln and his guests took their box seats, and the show resumed.

Act 3: The President is Shot

Not long after the start of Act 3, a well-known actor named John Wilkes Booth slipped into the presidential box. He carried a small Deringer pistol and fired at Lincoln’s head from just inches away.

When Rathbone tried to stop him, Booth slashed at the young Union officer with a large knife and jumped down to the stage before escaping.

A young doctor rushed to Lincoln’s aid, and Keane, the lead actress, brought water. Keane

kept blood-stained fragments from her dress from when she cradled the president’s head in her lap. An American flag decorating the presidential box also was folded and used as a pillow for Lincoln’s head.

An Associated Press correspondent at the time, Lawrence Gobright, recovered the pistol in the theater box and turned it over to police.

Act 4: The Vigil

The wounded president was taken across the street to Petersen House as doctors tried to save his life. Outside, the public gathered for an all-night vigil until Lincoln’s death at 7:22 a.m. on April 15, 1865.

For the first time since that night, Lincoln’s blood-stained Brooks Brothers Great Coat is being reunited with Mary Todd Lincoln’s black velvet cloak that she wore by his side. Also on display are Lincoln’s top hat and the contents of his pockets: two pairs of glasses, cufflinks, pocket knife, leather wallet and a \$5 Confederate note, perhaps from his recent trip to Richmond, Virginia.



AP

In this Sunday, March 8, 2015 photo, actress Kate Winslet poses for a portrait for the film, “The Divergent Series: Insurgent,” at the Four Seasons Hotel, in Los Angeles.

in. I don’t allow magazines into the home. I just don’t,” she said.

Ultimately, Winslet’s work in the “Divergent” films is for her three kids, ages 14, 11 and 15 months.

“My children can’t see most of the films I’ve been in because I either die or take my clothes off,” said Winslet, laughing.

“At a certain point in one’s career, it’s really wonderful when your child turns around and goes ‘oh my god, mommy, you have to be in that film. My friends are going to die,’” she said animatedly.

She’s always surprised at just how opinionated her kids are about her career, sometimes cautioning her to avoid something that they feel she’s “done before.” Speaking of a secretive cameo that she was recently offered, Winslet said that when she told her 11-year-old son, his world came to a stop.

“I actually had to video his reaction because it was so profound,” she said.

Mexico City closes some historic streets for new James Bond film

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Officials in Mexico City says they will close off some parts of the historic downtown district to allow a production team to film parts of the new James Bond thriller “Spectre.”

The city of 8 million people is known for its heavy traffic, which might otherwise interfere with filming.

Officials say the first street closings will start Thursday and shutdowns will be done at various locations through April 1.

Affected areas include streets with buildings dating back to the 17th century and the city’s vast central plaza, the Zocalo.

Production staffers have apparently already prepared some spots downtown, including one street crowded with traditional “Day of the Dead” decorations.

The Sam Mendes-directed movie starring Daniel Craig is scheduled to film in London, Italy, Morocco, Mexico and Austria.

Christie’s to sell art collection of ex-Goldman Sachs boss

NEW YORK (AP)—The art collection of the late former chairman of Goldman Sachs is heading to auction.

Christie’s says 90 impressionist and post-impressionist works belonging to John Whitehead could bring over \$40 million.

Paintings by Amedeo Modigliani (ah-mah-DAY’-oh moh-deel-YAH’-nee) and Claude Monet are among the highlights at its spring sales May 4-5.

Whitehead headed the Lower Manhattan Development

Corp. after the Sept. 11 attacks. He also served as chairman to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and deputy secretary of state under President Ronald Reagan.

He died in February at age 92. Whitehead assembled his collection over 30 years with the help of art historian and dealer Achim Moeller (AH’-heem MUH’-luhr).

He donated two major paintings to New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Prince Charles, Camilla to visit US capital, meet with Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—Britain’s Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, are set to arrive in Washington and will visit cultural and educational sites over the next three days.

The British Embassy says the royal couple is scheduled to arrive Tuesday at Andrews Air Force Base. They’ll be greeted by the British ambassador to the U.S. and taken to a reception for embassy staff at the ambassador’s home.

The ambassador, Sir Peter Westmacott, said in a statement before their arrival that the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will promote democratic values, environmental preservation and perform an “essential role” in keeping the trans-Atlantic relationship “special.”

Prince Charles last visited the U.S. in 2011. As he did then, he’s scheduled to meet this week with President Barack Obama.

Down-to-earth Gere gets ‘Exotic’

NEW YORK (USA Today)—Whatever you do, never refer to Richard Gere as an icon, or a legend, or any version thereof.

“It’s not my thing. I’m a dad. That’s what I am. I have a job, a really good job, and I’m a dad,” says the father of Homer, 15, from his marriage to Carey Lowell.

The actor—who made women swoon as sleek lothario-for-hire Julian Kaye in 1980’s “American Gigolo,” played moody piano for a saucy hooker in 1990’s “Pretty Woman,” and mesmerized as slick lawyer Billy Flynn in 2002’s “Chicago”—booked a passage to India for his latest project. He’s a guest at “The Second Best Exotic Marigold

Hotel,” in theaters Friday, which finds him looking for love and connection amid the feisty pensioners as the cast’s new addition.

The sequel features a who’s who of acting greats, including Dames Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. It required Gere to work all of four weeks, in a country he loves, on something he would go watch himself in a theater.

“It’s not a deep, deep film, but it has depth to it, and gravitas. It’s unpretentious. It’s a literate adult script that can poke fun at all of us,” he says. “I can’t imagine doing something that I would not



Gere

want to see myself.”

Much of the film gently, and humorously, deals with the themes of aging and finding romance in your golden years. But deepening laugh lines are not something that Gere, 65,

dwells on.

“I’m not aware of it. Not at all. It’s about being curious. I’m more curious now than when I was a kid. I haven’t started falling apart. It may change at that point, when things don’t work anymore,” he says.

He began acting in the theater as a 19-year-old and continues to reinvent himself, most recently playing a homeless man in last fall’s “Time

Out of Mind.” He spent time on Manhattan streets panhandling, calling it “a profound experience of what it is to be a black hole. You’re avoided.”

There’s nothing accidental about his choices: Gere is particular about how he’s photographed, where he sits during an interview, and what he’s ordering for dinner (risotto and salad).

“I’m very fortunate. Every day, I’m very aware of that,” he says. “Why, I don’t know. A lot of people are good at what they do.”

His son, meanwhile, won’t be part of forging any kind of Gere acting dynasty. “He has no interest, which is great,” Gere says. “He has his own interests and they’re very different than mine.”

Plummer to leave footprints at Hollywood’s Chinese Theater

LOS ANGELES (AP)—While Christopher Plummer is famously no great fan of his role in “The Sound of Music,” he’s thrilled to participate in the film’s 50th anniversary celebration this month, which includes a special honor for the 85-year-old Oscar winner: Adding his hand and footprints to the cement collection at Hollywood’s Chinese Theatre.

“I love that idea,” said Plummer, who is set to leave his prints on March 27 as part of the TCM Classic Film Festival. “When I was happy enough to get the Oscar, I (thought) oh, I think I should get this too, really. But I won’t say anything. And then it happened! It’s great. I don’t care that it’s the end of my life. It’s a refreshing thing to have happen when you’re getting on.”

Not that the actor has slowed at all with age. He plays a manager to Al Pacino’s aging rock star in next month’s “Danny Collins” and shares the screen with John Travolta in the crime thriller “The Forger.”

“They’re not all boring, old men dying,” Plummer said of his latest roles. “Even though I am kind of 85 now, I think I can pass for late 60s, 70, so maybe there’s a few more years yet. I’d love to play a dashing young thing, though, who jumps in and out of Rolls Royces, who has a huge wardrobe that I could take home afterward.”

Among the directors he’d still like to work with? Wes Anderson and Steven Spielberg.

A professional actor for almost 60 years, Plummer originally wanted to be a concert pianist but switched courses when he realized what a lonely occupation that would be. Acting, he said, “is much more gregarious.”

His career is as he expected it would be, and he loves the work as much now as he ever did.

“I adore the profession,” he said. “In acting, you go all over the world, you’re paid for it and you stay there so you get to know the country and the people, because they’re work-

ing alongside you, so it’s a huge learning experience...

“That part of filmmaking is divine, and of course I’m crazy

about the theater. I’ve been in it all my life, and I don’t think there’s anything that replaces the feeling of a live audience.”



In this July 25, 2013, file photo, Christopher Plummer, a cast member in the HBO film “Muhammad Ali’s Greatest Fight,” poses for a portrait at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Man long ignored by family wants to return the favor

DEAR ABBY: I am the youngest of three boys. When I was growing up, my brothers didn’t have much to do with me. At times they were cruel, mocked my interests and made fun of my friends. At 19 I moved into the dorms, even though I was attending college locally.

My professional life took me away from my hometown for 25 years. Both brothers pretty much ignored me, except for calls on my birthday that were filled with awkward silence because we didn’t know each other well enough to talk about anything. I lived abroad for long periods, and even though I sent emails and postcards, I never heard anything from them in reply.

Now I live back in my hometown and I am expected to participate in holiday and family events because “it’s family.” Please give me the words to use to refuse invitations I do not want, from a family who made it clear that they had no use for me for so long.

WARY IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WARY: Give the following standard refusal: “Thank you for wanting to include me, but I already have other plans.” No one can argue with that. I do, however, suggest you choose ONE holiday a year to spend with your “family” as a way of maintaining minimal contact. That way they can’t accuse you of snubbing them.

DEAR ABBY: Three widowed friends of mine still have their

late husbands’ voices on their answering machines. I think it’s spooky and in really bad taste.

Is there any way to gently suggest to them that they change their greeting to one in their own voices or an anonymous one? I’m a widow, too, and I wouldn’t think of leaving my greeting that way.

FLABBERGASTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR FLAB: Different strokes for different folks. Has it not occurred to you that these ladies not only do not find the sound of their late husbands’ voices the least bit spooky, but that they might call their own numbers in order to hear it? They may also feel safer having a male voice answer their phone. Because you find it upsetting, consider texting or emailing them instead.

DEAR READERS: The departments of psychiatry and medicine at Tufts Medical Center want to learn more about the impact that caregiving has on family members and friends of people who have been diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.

Because family members and friends of individuals with mental illness play a large part in providing care—while also balancing jobs and other life responsibilities—the physicians and research scientists at Tufts are asking you to share the impact caregiving has on different aspects of your life, including

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

your ability to work and your health and well-being. This information will be used to improve services to caregivers and the people they support.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please visit tinyurl.com/TuftsCaregiver. Participation in this study is voluntary and involves completing an anonymous survey.

Dear Abby readers are the most generous and caring folks in the world, and I hope some of you are willing to help with this project.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



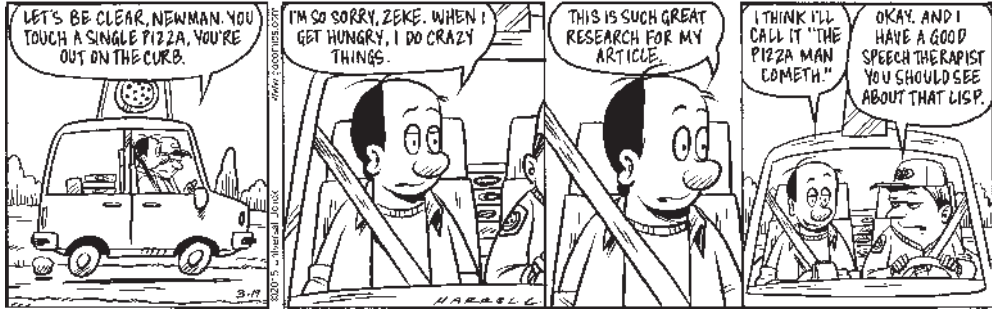
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

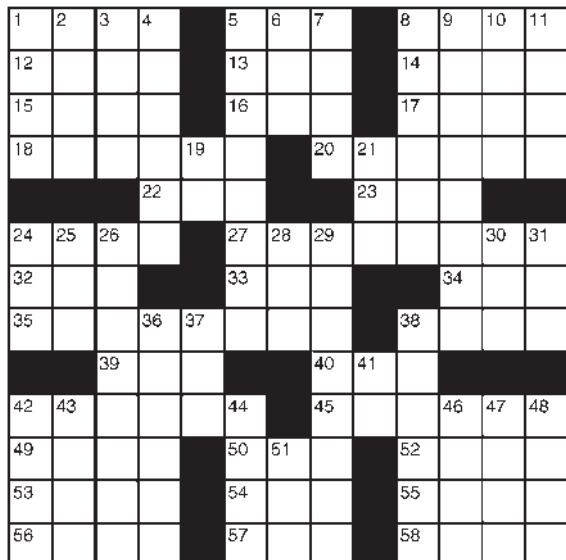
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Requests Clinton, by birth
- 5 Spring-time abbr.
- 8 Standards
- 12 Injure severely
- 13 Kiwi's extinct kin
- 14 Saudi Arabia neighbor
- 15 Curved molding
- 16 Wood-shaping tool
- 17 Peace-keeping grp.
- 18 Whiz
- 20 Capital of Croatia
- 22 Deli loaf
- 23 Floral accessory
- 24 The "Say Hey Kid"
- 27 Still having a rind
- 32 Resume, for short
- 33 Estuary
- 34 Deposit
- 35 Bill Clinton, by birth
- 38 Extra
- 39 Raw rock
- 40 Discoverer's call
- 42 Reverberates
- 45 Look for
- 49 Bridge coup
- 50 NAFTA signatory
- 52 Urban carrier
- 53 Cougar
- 54 "Platoon" locale
- 55 Cruising
- 56 Nays' undoers
- DOWN**
- 1 Andy's pal
- 2 Long story
- 3 Chicken
- 4 Finger-paints
- 5 Olympians, generally
- 6 Legume holder
- 7 Heckle
- 8 Thin silky fabric
- 9 Texas city
- 10 Assessment
- 11 Uppity one
- 19 Big Apple abbr.
- 21 Milwaukee product
- 24 Biz deg.
- 25 Broadcast
- 26 Japanese city
- 28 Actress Peeples
- 29 Complete view
- 30 Listener
- 31 Go red?
- 36 Scents
- 37 Born
- 38 Human
- 41 That guy
- 42 Get a glimpse of
- 43 Fingerprint, often
- 44 Trilled
- 46 Relaxation
- 47 Graph lines
- 48 "Buenos"
- 51 Enervate

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-19



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jake Weber, 51; Bruce Willis, 60; Glenn Close, 68; Ursula Andress, 79.

Happy Birthday: A steady and progressive approach to whatever you want to see unfold will not let you down. You can make your dreams come true and bask in the glory that comes with success. Let your mind wander. Believe in yourself and what you know in your heart you can accomplish. This is your year to put your talent to the test. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 28, 32, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't give up—get moving. Put your energy to good use and start something you've wanted to do for some time. It's up to you to make things happen. Embrace change and try something new. Love is on the rise. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An empathetic approach to a cause will lead you to influential people. Don't feel you have to make a substantial donation to impress someone. Offering hands-on help will be sufficient and give you a chance to network with prospective partners. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Doing things you enjoy with people who share your interests and outlook will give you a boost. Try not to let work-related matters get to you. A colleague will use deception to make you look bad. Don't share personal information. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get back to a creative project you left unfinished. You'll have the imagination and originality to finish what you started with a creative twist.

The satisfaction you get from your accomplishment will put you in a celebratory mood. Make plans for two. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Face a challenge with discipline and the willingness to do whatever it takes to come out on top. Your ability to adapt to change and turn a lemon into lemonade will give you the edge and bring you respect among your peers. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A poor investment or spending to impress someone will add to your stress. Emotional matters will crop up when dealing with both personal and professional partners. Don't hide facts. You are best to deal with situations honestly and conservatively. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen to someone who is questioning your plans. Don't make an impulsive move if you want to keep the peace. Ease your way into what you would like to see happen. Offer your assistance to a cause you believe in. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Network and promote what you've been working on. Focus on expressing your views and offering insight to those who share your views. Plan to put a little romance into play. Make positive changes to the way you live. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opposition is likely to surface if you are evasive or ignore emotional situations that need to be dealt with. A change at home should help you cut corners and improve a situation that has legal or financial implications. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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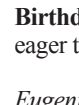
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your skills, education and business sense to get ahead. A new approach to an old idea will capture attention. A partnership may be offered, but before you accept, consider moving forward on your own. Love is highlighted. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make changes that can help raise your income or improve your current professional status. A partnership will enhance your ability to take care of the details and will give you a chance to rejuvenate. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems getting along with someone in an influential position will surface. Listen carefully to an experienced colleague. Using charm and compliments will help you bypass a setback in your plans. Make an effort to improve yourself instead of trying to change others. ★★



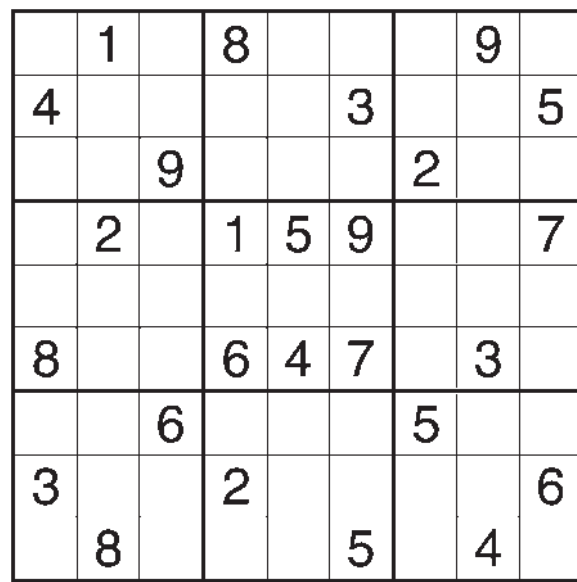
Birthday Baby: You are captivating, intense and eager to please. You are mystical.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

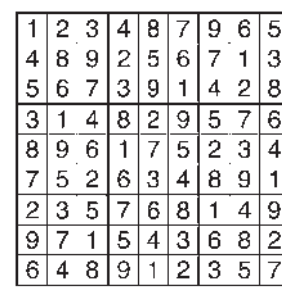


Difficulty Level ★★

3/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

3/19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOYFRIEND JEANS

Solution: 7 letters



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3/19

Appearance, Baggy, Blue, Body, Borrow, Casual, Corny, Cool, Cost, Cuffed, Cut, Dark, Deals, Denim, Designers, Designs, Fabric, Feel, Feminine, Flatters, Friend, Girls, Light, Long, Loose, Material, Pair, Pockets, Relaxed, Ripped, Rise, Rollup, Rough, Shape, Short, Size, Stitching, Straight, Strong, Styles, Teenagers, Trendy, Waist, Wardrobe, Wash, Wear, Weekends, Wide, Women, Worn Out

Yesterday's Answer: Lava Lava

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Designed by Ulrikea Uebach

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Knicks surprise Spurs with 104-100 victory in OT



NEW YORK (AP)—The poor passing and sloppy shooting in overtime hurt, though the effort was more disappointing than the execution to Spurs coach Gregg Popovich.

"We didn't respect the game," he said. "We didn't respect our opponent. It was a pathetic performance, and I hope every player is embarrassed. Not because we're supposed to win the game, quote unquote, but it's about how you play the game."

The NBA's worst team played it better than its defending champions, and the New York Knicks surprised San Antonio 104-100 on Tuesday night.

Alexey Shved scored 21 points and made the key defensive play in overtime for the Knicks, who became the first team in NBA history to enter a game this late in a season with a winning percentage below .200 and beat the defending champs, according to information provided by Elias for the Knicks.

"It's a special win for the team and a good win for the fans," Shved said. "They saw a great game today and I hope we will show a little bit more wins. We just try to play hard every time."

Rookie Langston Galloway had a career-high 22 points for the Knicks, who held the Spurs to just one basket in overtime. Lou Amundson finished with 12 points and a career-high 17 rebounds while playing tough against Tim Duncan.

Tony Parker scored 21 points for the Spurs and made their only basket in OT, 16 seconds into the period. They managed just two free throws from there in losing for the second time in nine games.

Shved knocked away Duncan's pass intended for Kawhi Leonard with the Spurs trying to tie, then closed the scoring with two free throws.

Duncan finished with 17 points and eight rebounds. Leonard scored 13 points but shot 3 of 9 from the field as the Spurs finished at 38 percent. They were 1 for 9 in OT with three turnovers.

"We had a lead in the half, we had a lead in the third and

just went through a stretch there where we didn't make enough plays," Duncan said. "We kept them in the game and their guys stepped up and made shots and we just didn't."

Playing without Manu Ginobili because of a sprained right ankle, the Spurs missed a chance to inch ahead of Dallas for fifth place in the Western Conference and instead fell behind the Clippers into seventh.

New York, which trailed by 13 in the third quarter, took its first lead of the night when Cole Aldrich capped an 8-0 run with a follow shot that made it 86-84 midway through the fourth.

The Knicks tied it at 96 on Amundson's layup with 5.5 seconds remaining in regulation and it went to OT after Leonard's jumper went in and out with 3 seconds to go.

Shved made two free throws after being fouled on a 3-pointer for a 100-99 lead, and even with two replay reviews going in their favor, the Spurs couldn't find another bucket. Jason Smith's free throw made it 101-99, Duncan only hit one with a chance to tie with 9 seconds left, and Amundson added one to make it a two-point game before Shved's defensive stop.

Without Tim Hardaway Jr. (sprained right wrist) and Cleanthony Early (sprained left ankle), the Knicks (14-53) had only 10 players in uniform in their first game back home after returning a day earlier from a five-game trip to the West that included four losses.

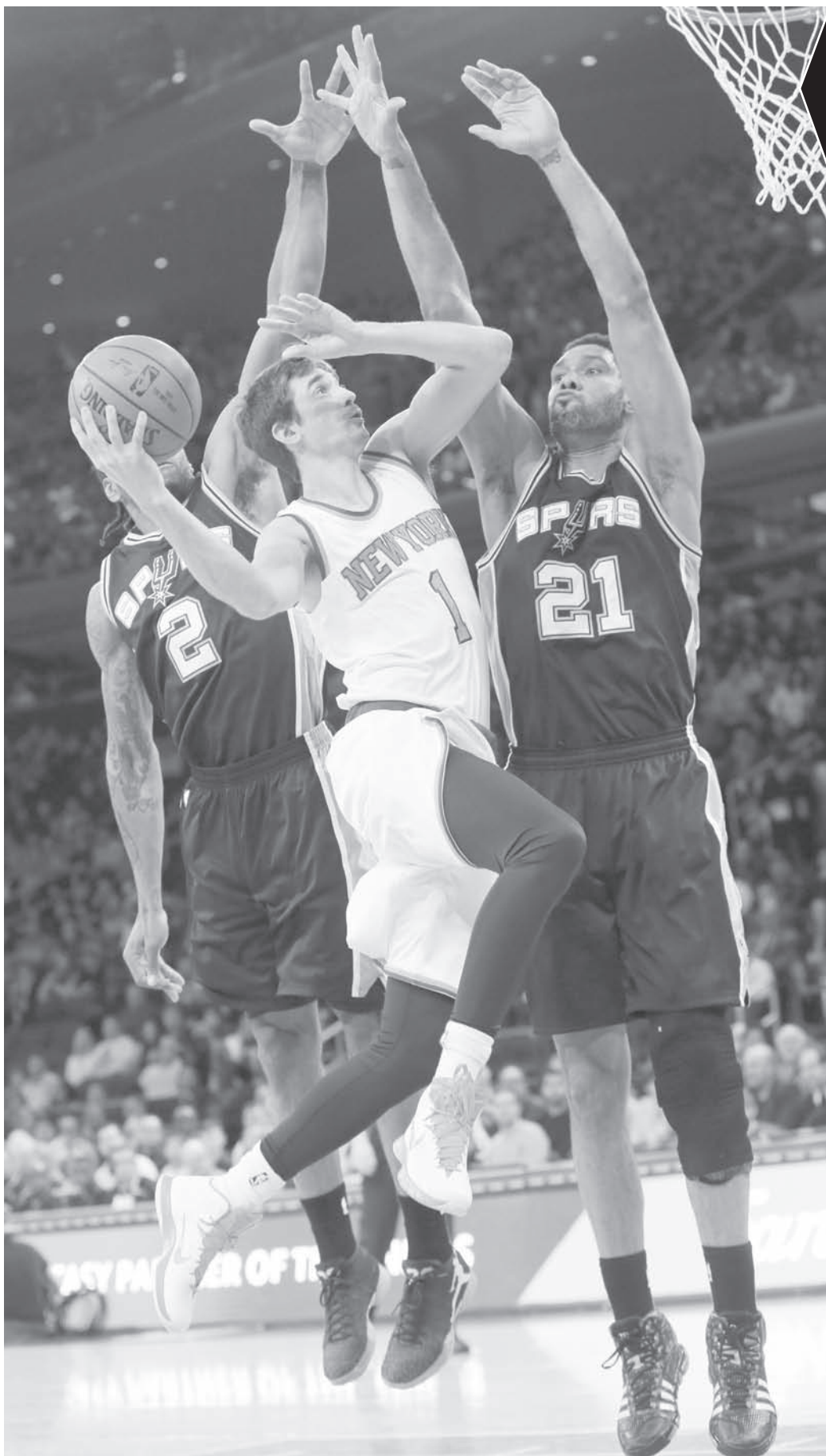
Pelicans 85, Bucks 84

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 20 points and 12 rebounds as the Pelicans held off Milwaukee.

Davis, who shoots around 55 percent, hit only 6 of 18 shots, but made 8 of 9 free throws and hit a clutch 15-footer that gave New Orleans an 85-82 lead with 1:07 left.

Ilyasova and Giannis Antetokounmpo each scored 15 for Milwaukee, while Jerryd Bayless and John Henson each scored 14.

Quincy Pondexter hit five 3-pointers and finished with 18 points for New Orleans, while



AP
New York Knicks' Alexey Shved (1) drives past San Antonio Spurs' Kawhi Leonard (2) and Tim Duncan (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 17, 2015, in New York.

and 14 boards.

Al Jefferson led Charlotte with 21 points and former Clipper Mo Williams had 18 points and eight assists.

Rockets 107, Magic 94

In Houston, Donatas Motiejunas scored 23 points and the Rockets used a big run late in the fourth quarter to break open a close game and beat the Magic.

A driving layup by Victor Oladipo got the Magic within two points with about five minutes left before the Rockets used a 13-0 run, powered by three 3-pointers, to make it 107-92 with less than a minute remaining.

Harden, who is second in the NBA in scoring, went 4 for 14, but made eight free throws to finish with 17 points.

Oladipo's 29 points led the Magic, who have dropped four in a row.

Along with Motiejunas and Harden, Trevor Ariza (17), Josh Smith (17), Corey Brewer (13) and Patrick Beverley (12) also scored in double digits.

Pistons 105, Grizzlies 95

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Reggie Jackson had 23 points and a career-high 20 assists as the Pistons ended a 10-game skid with a comeback victory over the Grizzlies.

The Pistons trailed by 15 at halftime, but Jackson dominated Beno Udrih, who was starting at point guard in place of injured Mike Conley (ankle). Jackson had 11 points and 13 assists in the second half to pick up Detroit's second 20-point, 20-assist game of the season.

Jeff Green led Memphis with 21 points, while Marc Gasol had 17 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out. Andre Drummond finished with 16 points and 16 rebounds for Detroit.

Omer Asik had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Clippers 99, Hornets 92

In Los Angeles, J.J. Redick scored 23 points and Chris Paul

had 20 points and eight assists as the Clippers beat the Hornets.

The Clippers led 63-41 with 10 minutes left in the third quarter. Charlotte rallied within a point in the final period.

Blake Griffin had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers, who were coming off back-to-back losses to Dallas and Houston. DeAndre Jordan finished with 12 points

Borland quits: 'What am I doing ...banging my head?'

By JIM LITKE
AP SPORTS WRITER



You can still count on two hands how many players walked away from a pro football career with more good days likely ahead of them than behind.

That's why Chris Borland's decision to retire at age 24, after a great rookie season with the 49ers and a near-guaranteed huge payday down the line, sent shockwaves rip-

pling across the NFL. The announcement came within days of retirements by 20-somethings Jason Worilds, Jake Locker, Cortland Finnegan and 30-year-old perennial Pro Bowl 49ers linebacker Patrick Willis, whose spot Borland was expected to fill.

Each of those players cited different reasons for calling it quits. Only Borland, who suffered a concussion in training camp last fall but covered it up in a bid to win a spot on the field, tied his departure directly to the continuing risk of

brain injury.

"I just thought to myself, 'What am I doing? Is this how I'm going to live my adult life, banging my head, especially with what I've learned and knew about the dangers?'" Borland said Monday on ESPN's "Outside the Lines."

But more surprising, and perhaps even more unsettling for the league's long-term prospects, was the reaction from fellow players and the game's notoriously tough fan base: an almost-unanimous show of respect for a young

player who left millions on the table rather than expose himself to more concussions.

"I didn't see it coming," Chris Nowinski, an expert on sports-related concussions, said about Borland's announcement. "This was somebody who got educated on the issue, and the choices he was facing. I wasn't sure if there were current players interested enough to do their homework."

But a moment later, Nowinski, a Harvard graduate, author and former pro wres-

tlar who was instrumental in the formation of Boston University's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, said the reaction from the larger NFL community may have been more surprising still.

"It shows the macho culture of 'destroy yourself for the game' is losing its grip, that it's no longer cool to question people's toughness. That represents a big shift in thinking from just a few years ago," he said. "The real question now is whether those players who stay in the game will be encouraged to

become greater advocates for their own safety. ...

"And then there's the 3 million or so youngsters playing the game at the lower levels," Nowinski added. "Will something like this lead to better and more effective safety measures for them?"

The depth of that talent pool prompted a response from Eliot Wolf, director of player personnel from the Green Bay Packers, who tweeted: "Anyone worried about the future of football should see the amount of calls and emails we get from kids literally begging to get into pro days."

Johnson, Chievous score 15 to keep Pirates alive, 74-64



DAYTON, Ohio

(AP)—Hampton coach Edward Joyner Jr. had joked he'd need a lot of help if his team advanced to play No. 1 Kentucky. "Jesus on speed dial," he kidded.

So after Hampton extended its unlikely run, beating Manhattan 74-64 Tuesday night in the First Four to dial up a date with the mighty Wildcats, Joyner grabbed a cell phone and pretended to make a really, really long-distance call.

"Hello? Hello?" he said at a postgame news conference.

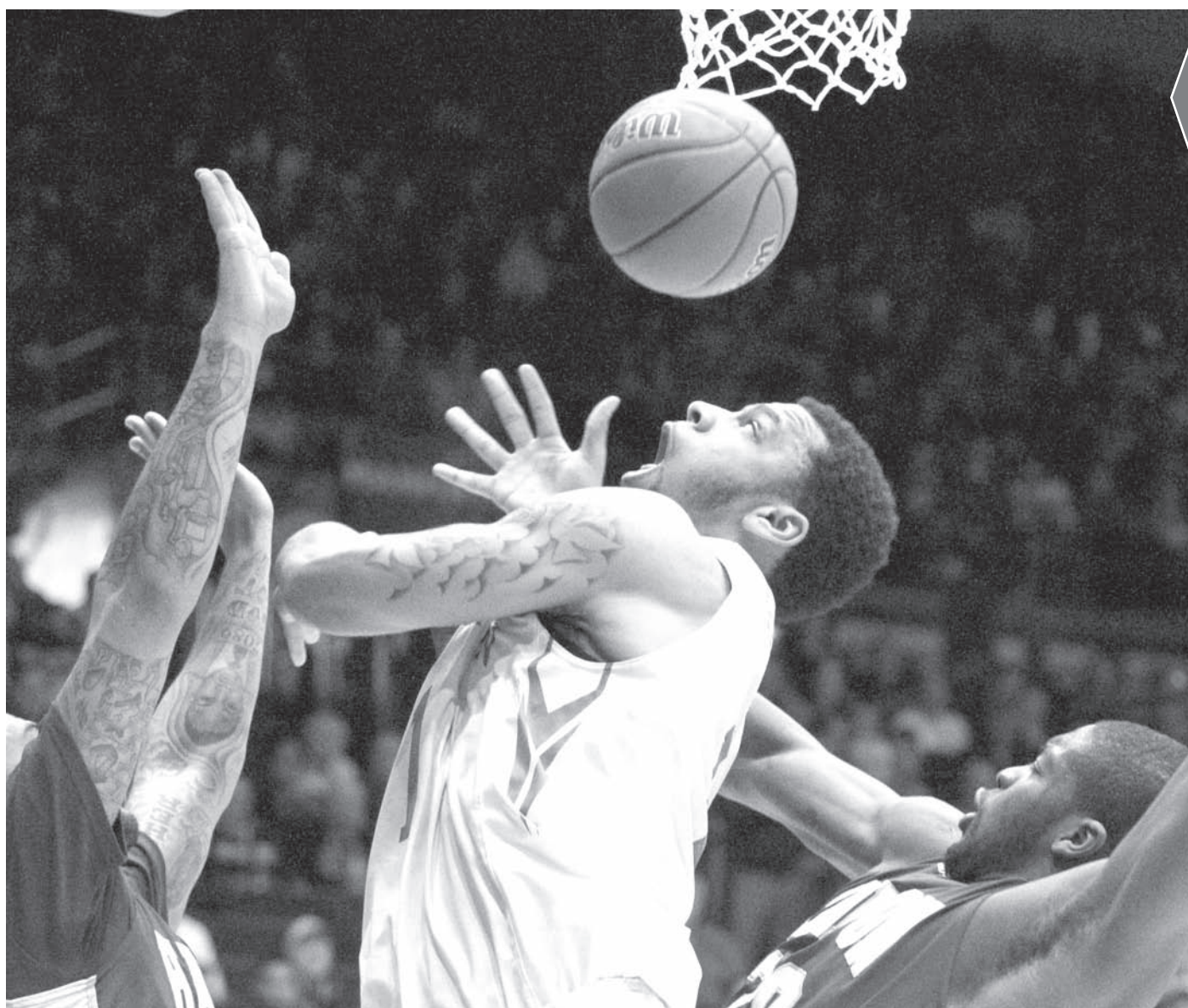
Then he put down the phone, laughed, and said, "I guess he'll get back to me."

Reginald Johnson scored 15 points and made two critical defensive plays down the stretch and Quinton Chievous added 15 points and 13 rebounds before leaving with a sprained ankle in the final minutes.

The Pirates (17-17) scored the first seven points, led by as many as 12 in the opening half and then, after Manhattan had rallied within a point, pulled away at the finish.

Johnson sealed the game with two huge steals, the second leading to his floor-length assist pass to Emmanuel Okoroba for a layup. Okoroba then hit a scoop shot on a drive and the lead was 67-58 with 90 seconds remaining. Manhattan (19-14) never threatened again.

The 68th team in a 68-team



field, Hampton won as an underdog yet again.

"We love that. We take that head on," said Brian Darden, who scored 13 points including clinching free throws at the end. "That's our image."

Shane Richards scored 17

points and Emmy Andujar 11 for the Jaspers, champions of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament.

"You have to give Hampton credit," said coach Steve Masiello, who played four years at Kentucky and would

have been the center of attention in Louisville had his team won. "I know we're all caught up in whether they had a losing record, (the fact that) they're 68th and we're 67. But they came out and played tonight."

Ole Miss 94, BYU 90

In Dayton, Ohio, Ole Miss pulled off the NCAA Tournament's first big comeback.

Against the team that's known for the biggest one of all, no less.

Stefan Moody scored 26

AP
Manhattan's Ashton Pankey goes for a rebound against Hampton in the first half of a first-round NCAA tournament basketball game Tuesday, March 17, 2015 in Dayton, Ohio.

points and led Mississippi's comeback from a 17-point halftime deficit to a 94-90 victory over BYU on Tuesday night in the First Four.

The Rebels (21-12) trailed until Moody led a 15-2 run midway through the second half. He hit a late 3-pointer that helped finish it off.

"Welcome to March Madness!" Mississippi coach Andy Kennedy said.

It was some way to get it going.

Ole Miss goes to Jacksonville, Florida, to play sixth-seeded Xavier on Thursday afternoon in the East Region, a team that Kennedy knows well from his days as a coach at Cincinnati.

BYU (25-10) pulled off the biggest comeback in NCAA Tournament history in Dayton three years ago, rallying from a 25-point first-half deficit to a 78-72 win over Iona in the First Four. This time, the Cougars couldn't hold the big lead.

"This game will sting for quite a while," coach Dave Rose said. "It was pretty similar to (three) years ago when we were here."

Tyler Haws, a senior guard who is BYU's all-time leading scorer, had 33 points but missed a 3-pointer as BYU tried to catch up in the closing seconds. It was the first time this season that the Cougars lost after leading by 17 points.

"We did enough offensively to win the game," Haws said. "We found our rhythm in the first half and got it going. It got away from us in the second half. We didn't really have any answers for them defensively."

Haws had 19 points in the first half, helping the Cougars pull ahead 49-32. Moody got the Rebels' guard-driven offense going midway through the second half, when three BYU players picked up their fourth fouls and things opened up near the basket.

"Definitely a sense of urgency," said Moody, whose 26 points were an Ole Miss NCAA Tournament record. "We could have went in the locker room, sulked about it and come back out, and it would have just got worse."

M.J. Rhett added a career-high 20 points for Ole Miss, including a pair of three-point plays and a dunk during the go-ahead run.

Chase Fischer put the Cougars ahead 8-0, making a reverse layup and a pair of 3s. Ole Miss missed 15 of its first 19 shots overall as BYU took control. Fischer finished with 23 points, going 6 of 12 from beyond the arc.

SIDEBAR

Ware wants to be remembered for something more than injury

ATLANTA (AP)—Kevin Ware shows no queasiness toward that nasty scar running down the front of his right leg. He even rubs it from time to time—a good luck charm, one might say.

He's definitely not worried about another gruesome injury.

As the doctor told him, "I would have to get in a bad car crash or something like that to get my leg broken again," Ware said. "Everybody in the world is more concerned about it than me."

Of course, he did bend over to tap the court with his knuckles while speaking so confidently.

Knock on wood, you know.

The last time Ware played in the NCAA Tournament, he left the court on a stretcher, his right leg snapped so grotesquely that some of his Louisville teammates were in tears.

Now, he returns to the tournament with a different team and looking to leave a much different impression.

Ware plays at Georgia State—a school in downtown Atlanta, not far from where he played his

high school ball—and he's a big reason the Panthers made the NAAs for only the third time in school history.

In the low-scoring championship game of the Sun Belt Conference tournament, the junior guard scored 18 points—nearly half of his team's total.

Hollywood couldn't have drawn it up any better heading into the NCAA Tournament.

"There will be no greater story in my mind than Kevin Ware," Georgia State coach Ron Hunter said, looking ahead to Thursday's game against third-seeded Baylor in Jacksonville, Florida. "Mentally, what he had to go through to overcome this, that's something none of us can even dream about."

Two years ago, Ware was a key player off the bench for a talented Louisville team that many were picking to win it all. In the regional final against Duke, he soared out toward the 3-point line looking to contest a Blue Devils' shot. When he landed, the upper part of his right leg went one way, the bottom part went another.

The bone snapped cleanly in two, protruding through his skin. While some cried, others looked as though they might faint. If they had called the game off right there, no one would've complained.

But, before Ware was taken off the court, he urged his teammates to finish what they had started. The Cardinals won the game and advanced to the Final Four—in Atlanta, no less. Ware was able to watch both the semifinal and final from a seat at the far end of the bench, while many red-clad fans waved giant posters of his face and tweeted out messages with the hashtag, "WinForWare."

Win, Louisville did.

Ware even got to help cut down the net.

By the next season, he was recovered enough to return to the court. But he wasn't the same player, and he found it burdensome to be asked about his injury over and over again. Finally, after just nine games, he took a redshirt year and decided to transfer. Georgia State was a logical destination, a place where he could be close to his

family and friends but without all the unwanted attention.

"I just had to get away from being Kevin Ware, the guy who broke his leg on national TV," Ware said. "I just wanted to have a fresh start. I felt like Georgia State was up and rising."

Indeed, the Panthers romped through the Sun Belt a year ago, losing only one conference game during the regular season, only to be denied a spot in the NAAs when they lost in overtime of an excruciating conference final.

This season, Georgia State wasn't nearly as dominating, but it captured the conference title on the final day and again reached the championship game of the Sun Belt tournament. Facing state rival Georgia Southern, the Panthers struggled to do much of anything offensively, with star player R.J. Hunter (the coach's son) missing shot after shot while the other main scoring threat, former Kentucky point guard Ryan Harrow, barely played at all because of a hamstring injury.

Enter Ware, who scored

enough points for Georgia State to escape with a 38-36 victory.

"If I ever questioned his mental toughness, he sure answered me," R.J. Hunter said. "It was just amazing, man. That kid has been through a lot."

Back in Louisville, coach Rick Pitino was watching the game on television. He texted Ware's mother, while her son was diving all over the floor, telling her how proud he was of his effort.

"It was great to see him come back, not only perform like that but go to the tournament," Pitino said. "I know he'll have a lot of great experiences. It's great that he's back healthy and playing again."

With Harrow still hurting, his status for Thursday's game up in the air, Ware will likely need another huge performance for the 14th-seeded Panthers to pull off the upset.

No matter what happens, he's moved on from that horrible day two years ago.

"This closes the book for him," Ron Hunter said. "He can go back to being Kevin Ware, the basketball player."

Close wins for Ezekiel, Caleb

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ezekiel and Caleb pulled off similar close wins in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League to remain at the top half of the team standings.

Caleb eked out a 5-point victory over Samuel, 69-64, in the second game last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while Ezekiel earned the same winning margin against Jeremiah, 85-80, last Monday. Caleb now has a 3-1 record for solo second place in the eight-team field, while Ezekiel holds a 2-2 mark for a tie for third place with Gideon.

Ezekiel drew double figures from four players to outclass the winless Jeremiah (0-4). Mike Surima sizzled for 28 points, consistently leading Ezekiel's offense as he made 15 in the first half and 13 in the second. Vhoie Francia hit all his 14 markers in the second half, while Brendon Perez and Roy Alcantara combined for 15 in the final frame and finished with 13 and 16, respectively.

Genero Lansangan led Jeremiah's losing cause, firing 23, while Mark Rabago added 20

and Jay Nunag chipped in 16. Jeremiah drilled five triples in the first half to lead by 9 points, 47-38, with only 20 minutes left to play.

Jeremiah nailed three more triples in the second half, but only Lansangan converted more than two field goals for the team, while Ezekiel had a balanced offense to deny the former entry to the win column.

In last Monday's second match, Caleb leaned on young gun Nathan Borromeo to thwart Samuel (0-4).

Borromeo, who suits up for Saipan Southern High School in the MISO caging, came off the bench and scored 10 points in the first half. He started in the second half and played better, knocking in three triples and posting 14 more points to lift Caleb to its third win in four matches.

Rodel Morales and Michael Cabanas provided enough support to Borromeo. Morales finished with 17 points, 11 of them were registered in the first half, while Cabanas had 14, 8 were made in the second half. The trio's string of points in the second half allowed Ca-

leb to take the win after the game ended in a deadlock at the break, 37-all.

Jerome Reyes and Ronnie Gueverra posted 18 points each to pace Samuel, which is still winless in four games. Jing Bordon added 16 for Samuel, which will try to barge into the win column tomorrow when it faces Joshua (1-3) in the second game of the night. In the first match, co-leader Isaiah (4-0) will duel Caleb.

Friday

Ezekiel 85 – Surima 28, Alcantara 16, Francia 14, Perez 13, Irog 9, Conti 5.

Jeremiah 80 – Lansangan 23, Rabago 20, Nunag 16, Formales 8, Deang 7, Cabaoas 6.

Scoring by halves: 47-38, 85-80.

Monday

Caleb 69 – Borromeo 24, Morales 17, Cabanas 14, Banaci 6, Gatdula 4, Castro 2, Ocanada 2, Huddleston 2, Carpio 1.

Samuel 64 – Reyes 18, Guevarra 18, Bordon 16, Ponce 4, Pacia 4, Calibo 2, Belgado 2, Bonquin 2.

Scoring by halves: 37-37, 69-64.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Caleb's Nathan Huddleston, right, and Joseph Gatdula play tough defense on Samuel's Eric Abragan during the first half of their game in the 4th Genesis Cup last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

HANMI go-kart race gets support from Delta

Delta Air Lines is supporting the 3rd Annual HANMI Go-Kart Race that will hit the Mariana Resort Seaside Circuit on April 11. Delta has donated two round-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Delta Air Lines sales account executive Chris Concepcion, fifth from left, representatives of HANMI officials and members and Delta Air Lines staff pose with the ceremonial airline ticket the company is donating for the 3rd Annual HANMI Go-Kart Race during the turnover ceremony yesterday at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

FIVB

From Page 28

pants the foundation and knowledge to help them teach the sport. Learn the methodical approach and have a clearer understanding of the actual skills. Not just based on reading books.”

Kroger, who has a 30-year career in conducting coaches training courses, said players must learn the correct body development, the different stages of the skills used in volleyball, as well as the mental aspect.

“Hitting is one factor and skill of playing volleyball. One must learn the proper coordination and body movement to hit the ball,” said Kroger, who is also a professor at Kiel University's Institute of Sports Science in Kiel, Germany.

“And in every match there are winners and losers. You must know how to also work with the losers and develop them to take the loss in a positive way,” added the 60-year-old former setter.

He has visited more than 30 countries around the world and this is his first time to go to Oceania where he has already conducted similar courses in Vanuatu, Nauru, and the Solomon Islands.

Kroger said that the instructional manual that he developed for FIVB has been translated to different languages like Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish, Hungarian, Polish, and Portuguese.

Participants of the course will receive instructional materials that he prepared and created while NMIVA will get balls, nets, and T-shirts from the FIVB.

LEINA

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two-day tally of 13-over 157 to finish tied for 10th place together with University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons' Joana Yanez in the Las Vegas Desert Classic.

The rest of the Wolf Pack:

ALLEN

From Page 28

the finish line and achieving the unthinkable is inspiring. I'm hungry to chase that same feeling again this year,” the Wollongong native added.

Allen, who thanked husband and wife Steve and Kimiko McKagan for opening their home to him and girlfriend and fellow triathlete Jac-

trip tickets to Japan for next month's event. Delta sales account executive Chris Concepcion led the donation turnover ceremony yesterday at the airline company's counter at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport. HANMI chair and Mariana Resort & Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh, Kanoa Resort general manager Wendi Herring, Pacific Islands Club regional sales manager Shintaro Fujita, Hyatt Regency Saipan sales and marketing head Max Goto, Century Hotel operations supervisor Carlos Rivera, Mariana Resort restaurant assistant manager Albert Pajarillaga, and go-kart race chair Thompson Palik of Mariana Resort were present to witness the ceremony.

“Delta is donating main cabin tickets to Tokyo to support HANMI's go-kart tournament this April. We are the only airline that flies to and from Tokyo and we're here to support HANMI in its effort to boost the tourism industry on the island,” Concepcion said.

Cavanagh thanked Delta for its generous donation, adding that HANMI can always rely on the airline company when it comes to the group's fundraising activities.

Next month's go-kart tournament, according to Thompson, so far has lured 25 teams and they are expecting to get a few more as interested squads have



Julie Sanchez dropped to a tie for 41st with a 168, Megan McCutcheon came in 77th with a 196 followed by the 199 of Natasha Navarro at 78th place. Danielle DuPont landed at 81st with a 208.

The ThunderWolves finished the two-day tournament at 13th with a total score of 708. Host

Midwestern Mustangs topped the event with a 617 followed by West Texas (624), Academy of Art University (626), Tarleton State (630), and Rogers State (640).

The CSU-Pueblo bets return to Colorado Springs on March 28 and 29 for the Mountain Lion Invitational.

qui Slack, will be batting the men's division championship against last year's runner-up Aleksandr Dorovskikh of Russia and three other pros. Dorovskikh timed in at 4:24:16 in the 2014 raced won by Korean National Team member Ju Seoj Kim (4:15:59). Joining Dorovskikh and Allen in the men's pro field are Korea's Kaon Cho, New Caledonia's David Esposito, and Japan's

Shishin Miyagi. A few more age group participants from Japan, Korea, and Guam are also competing in the longest triathlon event in the CNMI.

Ninety-seven have registered so far for this weekend's Tagaman, which will also feature an Olympic distance race for individual and team divisions. The Olympic distance will cover 1.5K swim, 40K bike, and 10K run legs.

until this Friday to register. Each team is composed of three members and one coach.

For more information about the go-kart tournament, contact Rivera at carlos_rivera@centuryhotel-sp.com or Lito Parulan at lito.parulan@marianaresort.com. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	40	27	.597	—
Boston	30	36	.455	9½
Brooklyn	27	38	.415	12
Philadelphia	15	52	.224	25
New York	14	53	.209	26
Southeast Division				
x-Atlanta	53	14	.791	—
Washington	39	28	.582	14
Miami	30	36	.455	22½
Charlotte	29	37	.439	23½
Orlando	21	48	.304	33
Central Division				
Cleveland	43	26	.623	—
Chicago	40	28	.588	2½
Milwaukee	34	33	.507	8
Indiana	30	36	.455	11½
Detroit	24	43	.358	18
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	47	21	.691	—
Houston	45	22	.672	1½
Dallas	43	25	.632	4
San Antonio	41	25	.621	5
New Orleans	37	30	.552	9½
Northwest Division				
Portland	44	21	.677	—
Oklahoma City	37	30	.552	8
Utah	30	36	.455	14½
Denver	26	42	.382	19½
Minnesota	14	52	.212	30½
Pacific Division				
x-Golden State	53	13	.803	—
L.A. Clippers	43	25	.632	11
Phoenix	35	33	.515	19
Sacramento	22	44	.333	31
L.A. Lakers	17	49	.258	36
x-clinched playoff spot				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Adele Hudkins, left, makes a stop while teammate Nicole Arenovski looks on.



Instructors and participants of the one-day clinic pose for a group photo.



Former FIVB pro Jeff Carlucci, left, and Guam's Chris Shepherd also assisted in the free clinic.



Visiting professional beach volleyball players answer questions from Marianas High School students as part of the 2015 Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival on Saipan.



Above, Jeff Carlucci, right, sets up the ball to teammate Tyler Willsey.

Right, the Marianas Beach Volleyball Festival Junior Cup finalists, from left, Nicole Arenovski, Adele Hudkins, Zena Demapan, and Phalai Frink.

Below, MHS students join the visiting pros for a group photo.



Japan's Kosuke Sato, left, tries to score against the defense of Jeff Carlucci in their exhibition match.



Japan's Kosuke Sato jump serves.



From left, Japanese professional players Erica Habaguchi, Kosuke Sato, and Summer Miyagawa show the proper way of spiking the ball during the free clinic at Fiesta Resort & Spa's beach side.



Knicks surprise Spurs with 104-100 victory in OT

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Close wins for Ezekiel, Caleb

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Allen eager to try longer Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Australian pro Ben Allen is raring to race in the Half Ironman event of this Sunday's Tagaman Triathlon after missing last year's competition.

"I'm coming into this year's race confident and excited to tackle the new distance," Allen said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

This year's Tagaman Half Ironman course features a 1.9-kilometer swim, 90K bike, and 21K run. The longer course had its debut last year in celebration of the event's silver anniversary.

Despite failing to join last year's inaugural Half Ironman event, Allen believes he is ready to conquer the longer and more punishing course.

"I'm no stranger to racing on off-road, long or short distance races. I pride myself on being a versatile triathlete. I race at the elite level on the world stage in every distance and every multiple discipline event on earth. I have experience and knowledge, giving

me an edge over my competitors," added Allen, who arrived on Saipan early Wednesday morning.

Before coming to Saipan, Allen competed in the Philippines and various races across the Land Down Under this year.

"I have started my season, developing and trying different things, fine-tuning my race skillset. I've been in the sport for five years and I am always learning and getting stronger," the 30-year-old triathlete said.

"I remember the first time I participated in the race back in 2013, pushing my body and mind to its maximum limits. The thrill of crossing

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Australian pro Ben Allen poses for a photo at the finish line of this Sunday's Tagaman Triathlon.



FIVB instructor to hold six-day training course

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

International Federation of Volleyball instructor Dr. Christian Kroger will be spending the next six days on Saipan conducting a training course to help aspiring coaches learn about the proper knowledge and techniques to effectively teach the sport.

The event, which begins today and will end on March 24, is one of the programs lined up by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association to further promote the sport in the Commonwealth.

Thursday and Friday's classes start at 3:30pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The training course shifts to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on Saturday at 8am and returns to MHS on Sunday and Monday.

Kroger, a certified Level II instructor and international coach, arrived on Tuesday after a 22-hour flight from

the Solomon Islands where he also conducted a different type of training course.

He said athletes, in all sports, have to learn the proper foundation in order to be at the competitive level of playing. That's why coaches and instructors need to update their knowledge and skills that they teach to young players.

Kroger added that he created the Sports Aid Program in 1989 and he and FIVB later changed it to the Volleyball Cooperation Program that's being used up to now.

"To be competitive, one needs the correct foundation. FIVB asked me to create a program to developing countries. The program aims to help young players and if they plan to, up to the pro level," said Kroger in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"The main objective of the program is to aid all partici-

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Leina ends up second in Wichita

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Leina Kim failed to sustain her fine form and settled for a runner-up finish in the Midwestern State Invitation on Tuesday at the Wichita Falls Country Club in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The Colorado State University-Pueblo junior, according to the CSU-Pueblo Lady ThunderWolves website, limped with a 9-over 81 against the par-72, 5,843-yard layout. She and West Texas A&M University's Whitlee Woods were on top of the leaderboard after round one.

Kim, who earned her sixth Top 3 finish in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference season, and Woods shot a 1-under 71 to share first place after the opening round. She tallied 152 to lose the individual title by a stroke to West Texas' Glory

Jangthongsiri.

Jangthongsiri, who was tied for 23rd on Monday with a 7-over 79, fired an even-par final round giving her a 7-over 151 total to earn her second title this season after winning the St. Mary's Rattler Invitational. It was also her fifth overall title.

Midwestern bets Sierra Campbell and Sarah Moore, and opening round co-leader Woods tallied 9-over 153s to end up tied for third to fifth spots.

Kim, despite losing the crown, recorded the tournament's best scoring average on par-four holes with 4.10 while posting the second-most birdies with seven. She had six birdies in the first round and went 3-under on par-4 holes.

Two weeks ago, Kim fired a

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CSU-PUEBLO
Leina Kim tees off during the final day of the Midwestern State Invitation on Tuesday at the Wichita Falls Country Club in Wichita Falls, Texas.



JON PEREZ

Dr. Christian Kroger hopes to help physical education instructors learn the proper coaching techniques to aid them in honing the volleyball skills of their athletes and students.